

## CASTLE URGES MINIMUM UVA/UVB PROTECTION ON SUNSCREEN LABELS -- FEBRUARY 08, 2008

Washington, D.C. -- Rep. Castle has joined with Rep. Nita Lowey in writing to the U.S. Food and Drug Administration Commissioner von Eschenbach to applaud the FDA's proposed rule for sunscreen; and to urge the Commissioner to consider adopting a minimum UVA and UVB protection, similar to the standard in Europe, in order to be labeled a sunscreen.

"With the rate of skin cancer rising in the United States, especially in Delaware, we cannot delay in ensuring that Americans get fundamental protection from both skin cancer and sunburn in their sunscreens.

"Skin Cancer is the most prevalent cancer in America and your risk of contracting this diseases doubles simply by having been burnt badly five times or more. With Delaware having some of the highest percentages of skin cancer instances in the country, it is important that we pass regulations such as this to ensure that Delaware's sunbathers and beachgoers are protected from this ever growing threat.

"I urge the FDA to act quickly to finalize the final rule on sunscreen to ensure consumers can make informed decisions about the level of protection from the sun a particular product may provide. A minimum standard of ultraviolet ray protection would go a long way in mitigating the risk of both skin cancer and sunburn and reducing our health care costs associated with skin cancer.

"Warning labels are a good start, but we also need a public advocacy campaign to combat skin cancer and educate ourselves about the fact that while ratings and labels can help-- there is no product to completely block the dangerous effects of over-exposure," said Castle.

### Background:

The FDA was directed by Congress to incorporate UVA protection into its standard for sunscreen labeling by May 2006, however the proposed rule was not issued until August 2007. Last spring Rep. Castle wrote to the FDA to inquire about the status of the new sunscreen rule; and in July he joined Rep. Lowey as the lead Republican of legislation in the House that the House that would have required the FDA to establish a broad-spectrum sunscreen standard for UVA protection to be used in conjunction with existing UVB standards; required that only products meeting this standard be permitted to be labeled as "broad-spectrum"; and it would have required Department of Health and Human Services to conduct a

public awareness campaign about the dangers of overexposure to the sun, ways to protect oneself, and ways to properly use sunscreen to maximize its effectiveness. FDA finally issued the proposed rule in August 2007, and the public comment period closed at the end of December.

For more information on the FDA's proposed rule, please visit:  
<http://www.fda.gov/cder/drug/infopage/sunscreen/default.htm>

For more information on how to keep you and your family can promote safety in the sun this summer please visit:  
[http://www.cancer.org/docroot/CRI/content/CRI\\_2\\_2\\_2X\\_](http://www.cancer.org/docroot/CRI/content/CRI_2_2_2X_)

[Can\\_melanoma\\_skin\\_cancer\\_be\\_prevented\\_50.asp?sitearea=](#)

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