



## RIMS reminds parents: ASK if there is a gun where your children play



Michael Migliori, MD reminds parents that "Asking Saves Kids" and can prevent needless gun accidents.

### ASK Day 2006 in Rhode Island

Physicians, elected officials, and neighborhood children came together in Woonsocket on July 11 to reinforce RIMS' public awareness campaign about keeping kids safe from injuries involving firearms. Beginning this month, posters in bus shelters throughout Woonsocket and Providence relay a startling fact: more children play in a home with a gun than a home with a dog. The posters encourage parents to ask neighbors whether they have a gun in the home before allowing their children to visit.

Sponsored by the Rhode Island Medical Society (RIMS) in partner-

ship with Woonsocket Mayor Susan D. Menard and Congressman Patrick J. Kennedy, the bus shelter campaign is being launched as part of National ASK (Asking Saves Kids) Day, held annually at the beginning of summer, when children spend more time playing at friends' homes.

"Parents who worry about everything from swimming pools to violence on TV might be unwittingly sending their children into a home with an unlocked or loaded gun," said Dr. Michael Migliori of the Rhode Island Medical Society. "As a physician, I've seen firsthand the devastating effects of gun violence. I cannot overemphasize how important it is for

### About National ASK Day

National ASK (Asking Saves Kids) Day is sponsored by PAX, a non-profit organization seeking to end gun violence in America, and the American Academy of Pediatrics. Through powerful public service advertising campaigns and nationwide grassroots education programs, the ASK campaign has already inspired over two million households to ask if there are guns where their children play, preventing countless tragedies.

parents to ask about guns in homes."

In the U.S., more than one in three homes with children have a gun, and thousands of children are killed or injured each year as a result. In Rhode Island, about eight children die from gunfire each year.

Congressman Kennedy issued the following statement from Washington, D.C., where Congress remained in session: "Because of my longstanding involvement with gun safety and control campaigns, people across the nation share with me their gun violence tragedies. The RIMS campaign shows that there is something simple we can all do to prevent needless accidents—we can ask."

"RIMS is grateful to Lamar Outdoor Advertising for their contribution to this effort," said Dr. Migliori. This marks the fourth year of collaboration on the ASK campaign by the Rhode Island Medical Society and Congressman Kennedy, and the first year the campaign has been based in Mayor Menard's Woonsocket.