

May 28, 2026

The Honorable Susan Collins
Chair
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Tom Cole
Chair
Committee on Appropriations
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Ted Cruz
Chair
Committee on Commerce, Science, and
Transportation
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Brett Guthrie
Chair
Committee on Energy and Commerce
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Patty Murray
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Maria Cantwell
Ranking Member
Committee on Commerce, Science, and
Transportation
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Frank Pallone Jr.
Ranking Member
Committee on Energy and Commerce
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairs Collins, Cruz, Cole, and Guthrie, and Ranking Members Murray, Cantwell, DeLauro, and Pallone,

We write to urge you to preserve an independent, bipartisan Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) and ensure the agency has the appropriate tools, resources, and personnel to carry out its lifesaving mission.

The CPSC is an independent federal agency commissioned by Congress in 1972 to protect the public from unreasonable risks of injury or death from consumer products through education, safety standards, regulation, and enforcement.¹ This small agency with a big mission has had lifesaving effects. CPSC standards and enforcement activities have helped spur a 43 percent decline in residential fires, a 47 percent decrease in fire deaths, and a 41 percent

¹ Consumer Product Safety Commission. "About Us." www.cpsc.gov/About-CPSC. Accessed 29 April 2026.

reduction in fire injuries from 1980 to 2018.² Child poisonings have decreased by 80 percent between 1972 and 2020.³ Bicycle injuries dropped by 35 percent between 1973 and 2020.⁴ Deaths from refrigerator door entrapments and garage door incidents have been virtually eliminated.⁵ Crib deaths have plummeted by 80 percent from 1973 to 2018.⁶ Pool and pool equipment injury rates have decreased by 55 percent from 1975 to 2019.⁷

We strongly oppose any attempt to dramatically restructure the CPSC, reduce the agency's workforce, and decrease funding for consumer product safety. The FY 2027 Department of Health and Human Services' (HHS) budget and FY 2027 CPSC budget recommend that CPSC's functions be transferred to HHS.⁸ The CPSC budget also requests \$135 million in funding (a 10 percent funding cut compared to FY 2025 levels) and 459 employees (a 14 percent reduction of staff compared to FY 2025 levels).⁹

Over its fifty-year existence, the CPSC has developed a body of safety standards, enforcement actions, consumer education campaigns, data collection initiatives, and recall processes, none of which can be "transferred" to a new agency by executive action.¹⁰ If this proposal were unilaterally carried out, product safety standards—such as those preventing fires, lacerations, poisonings, suffocation, drowning, entrapment, and crushing—may no longer be in effect. Consumer products, including those imported from overseas, may no longer be inspected by federal regulators for safety threats. Sellers may no longer be obligated to recall dangerous or violative products. Critical product safety research may no longer be performed. Vital product safety information and data may no longer be public. That includes data essential for addressing hazardous household products, motor vehicle crashes, adverse drug effects, aviation incidents, and work-related injuries.

HHS lacks the statutory authority to establish product safety standards, pursue enforcement actions, implement consumer education campaigns, conduct data collection, and oversee recalls and safety warnings for consumer products that would be necessary to continue carrying out CPSC's mission. The CPSC, not HHS, has explicit jurisdiction over consumer product safety.¹¹ Any effort to use HHS's existing authorities to replicate CPSC activities would be vulnerable to legal challenge, potentially leaving a regulatory black hole through which dangerous consumer products could freely enter the stream of commerce. Replicating the

² Consumer Product Safety Commission. "CPSC Celebrates 50 Years of Making Consumer Safety Our Mission." 15 March 2022, www.cpsc.gov/Newsroom/News-Releases/2022/CPSC-Celebrates-50-Years-of-Making-Consumer-Safety-our-Mission.

³ *Id.*

⁴ *Id.*

⁵ *Id.*

⁶ *Id.*

⁷ *Id.*

⁸ Department of Health & Human Services. "Fiscal Year 2027 Budget in Brief." <https://www.hhs.gov/about/budget/budget-in-brief/index.html>. Accessed 29 April 2026; Consumer Product Safety Commission. "Performance Budget Request to OMB & Congress Fiscal Year 2027." April 2026. https://www.cpsc.gov/s3fs-public/FY27_Budget.pdf.

⁹ *Id.*

¹⁰ 15 U.S.C. Chapter 47; 16 CFR Chapter II.

¹¹ 15 U.S.C. Chapter 47.

CPSC’s activities would likely require several cumbersome rulemakings, which could take years to complete, if ever finalized.

Furthermore, HHS is not well-suited to oversee household product safety. HHS already has a vast mission, which includes food and drug regulation, communicable disease prevention, public health emergency preparation and response, medical research, and administration of Medicare, Medicaid, and the Children’s Health Insurance Program.¹² Product safety will likely be deprioritized. Competition with other programs could result in less funding for consumer product safety. Competing agency priorities could result in a lack of vigorous standard setting, oversight, and enforcement.

The additional layers of bureaucracy will lead to less effective and efficient governance of household product safety. Rulemakings, enforcement actions, research initiatives, and education campaigns may be subject to review, modification, and approval by the Secretary of HHS. Such processes could add months, if not years, to product safety actions, if the action is permitted at all. With approximately 49,000 product-related deaths, 34 million product-related injuries, and consumer product incidents accounting for \$1 trillion in societal costs each year, the American public can ill afford foreseeable delays and denials.¹³

Congress deliberately established an independent, bipartisan agency with exclusive authority over the safety of consumer products. Such independence ensures that product safety issues are treated like the public safety imperative they so clearly are. The CPSC protects the health and safety of the American people—especially babies, children, and older Americans—and creates clear rules of the road for manufacturers, retailers, and distributors. It ensures that safety is ingrained in the design and manufacturing of each product, giving companies assurance that they can profit while fulfilling their obligation to protect their customers.

We thank you for your prompt attention to this important matter.

Respectfully,

National Consumers League
Consumer Reports
Access Ready Inc.
Action on Smoking and Health
Activate St. Pete
Adventure Cycling Association

Advocates for Highway and Auto Safety
Consumer Federation of America
Aging Life Care Association
American Academy of Pediatrics
American Academy of Pediatrics California
Chapter 1

¹² Congressional Research Service. “Department of Health and Human Services: FY 2025 Budget Request.” 23 May 2024. www.congress.gov/crs-product/R48060.

¹³ Consumer Product Safety Commission. “Consumer Product-Related Injuries and Deaths in the United States: Estimated Injuries Occurring in 2020 and Estimated Deaths Occurring in 2019.” September 2021. <https://www.cpsc.gov/s3fs-public/ConsumerProductRelatedInjuriesandDeathsInTheUnitedStates.pdf?VersionId=bPIYVZJhOwvBRyFm2vIm0036tN7P0AKm>; Consumer Product Safety Commission. “Strategic Plan 2018-2022.” https://www.cpsc.gov/s3fs-public/CPSC_2018-2022_Strategic_Plan.pdf. Accessed 29 April 2026.

American Academy of Pediatrics, DC
Chapter
American Academy of Pediatrics, New York
Chapter 2
American Academy of Pediatrics, New York
Chapter 3
American Pediatric Surgical Association
Arizona Chapter of the American Academy
of Pediatrics
Bicycle Alliance of Minnesota (BikeMN)
Bicycle Helmet Safety Institute
Bike East Bay
Bike JC
Bike Los Altos
Bike Oven
Bike Pittsburgh
Bike Walk Knoxville
Bike Walk Tennessee
BikeDFW
BikeLA
Bike-Walk Alliance of New Hampshire
Breast Cancer Prevention Partners
Brookhaven Bike Alliance
Brynne Clippard
California Bicycle Coalition
Center for Auto Safety
Center for Digital Democracy
Center for Justice & Democracy
Center for Pet Safety
Center for Science in the Public Interest
Central New Hampshire Bicycle Coalition
Champaign County Bikes
Citizens Action Coalition of IN
Claire Bear Foundation
activ
Connect Pinellas, Inc.
Consumer Action
Consumer Federation of California
Consumers for Auto Reliability and Safety
Cribs for Kids
American Academy of Pediatrics, Delaware
Chapter
Detroit Greenways Coalition
Earth Ethics, Inc.
East Coast Greenway Alliance

EZ Ride
Families for Safe Streets
First Candle
American Academy of Pediatrics, Florida
Chapter
Friends of the Concord-Lake Sunapee Rail
Trail
Friends of the Salem Rail Trail
Georgia Advancing Communities Together,
Inc.
Government Information Watch
GreenLatinos
Healthy Babies Bright Futures
Homestretch Nonprofit Housing Corp
Housing and Economic Rights Advocates
American Academy of Pediatrics, Idaho
Chapter
American Academy of Pediatrics, Illinois
Chapter
Indoor Environments Association
Isles, Inc.
Just Strategy
Kansas Chapter, American Academy of
Pediatrics
Keeping Babies Safe
American Academy of Pediatrics, Kentucky
Chapter
Kids and Car Safety
League of American Bicyclists
League of Michigan Bicyclists
Live Well Grand Cities
Living Streets Alliance
Local Motion, Inc.
American Academy of Pediatrics, Maine
Chapter
Marin County Bicycle Coalition
MarketEdge Consulting
Missouri Bicycle & Pedestrian Federation
Missourians for Responsible Transportation
Muscular Dystrophy Association
Napa County Bicycle Coalition
National Bicycle Dealers Association
National Center for Health Research
National Center for Healthy Housing
National Coalition for Safer Roads

National Drowning Prevention Alliance
NC Pediatric Society
New Haven Coalition for Active
Transportation - NCAT
NH Rail Trails Coalition
American Academy of Pediatrics, Ohio
Chapter
Oregon Consumer Justice
Oregon Consumer League
Parents Against Vaping
Parents for Window Blind Safety
People Power United
Plano Bicycle Association
Product Injury Coalition
Reconnect Rochester
Reese's Purpose
Responsible Sourcing Network
Rhode Island Bicycle Coalition
Ride Illinois
Safe Kids Worldwide
Safe Routes Partnership
Safety Research & Strategies
San Diego County Bicycle Coalition
Santa Monica Safe Streets Alliance
Santa Monica Spoke
South Carolina Appleseed Legal Justice
Center
StopDistractions.org
Tempe Bicycle Action Group

The Bicycle Coalition of Maine
The Wisconsin Bike Federation
Trailnet
Treasure Valley Safe Routes to School
Truck Safety Coalition
U.S. Public Interest Research Group
Unleaded Kids
US Swim School Association
Velo Cruces, Inc.
American Academy of Pediatrics, Virginia
Chapter
Virginia Citizens Consumer Council
Vision Zero Maine
Walk 'n Rollers
Washington Area Bicyclist Association
West Virginia Citizen Action Group
Yakima Bikes and Walks!
ZeroW.org
Dr. Joanne Baerg, Pediatric Surgeon
Jeanne Briskin, Product Safety Advocate
Jeffrey D. Weidenhamer, Ph.D.
Joleen Evans, Product Safety Advocate
Mayra Romero-Ferman, Juvenile Product
Safety Advocate
Michael Haggard, Product Safety Advocate
Nancy Cowles, Children's Product Safety
Advocate
Tomorrow Bowen, Product Safety Advocate