

American Academy
of Pediatrics



DEDICATED TO THE HEALTH OF ALL CHILDREN®



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Fighting for Product Safety



Parents Against Tip-Overs



May 6, 2019

Dear Member of Congress,

The undersigned consumer, parent, and medical organizations urge you to co-sponsor [H.R.2211](#), The Stop Tip-overs of Unstable, Risky Dressers on Youth (STURDY) Act to combat the continuing deaths and injuries from furniture tip-overs.

A tip-over can involve a piece of furniture, often a dresser or other type of clothing storage unit, falling onto a small child. These dangerous episodes can lead to a severe injury requiring emergency room treatment, or even death. According to the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC), a child is sent to the emergency room because of falling furniture every 30 minutes, and one child dies every ten days.

American Academy of Pediatrics, Consumer Federation of America, Consumer Reports, Kids In Danger, Parents Against Tip-overs, and Public Citizen have been working together to end the hazard posed by unstable furniture. Our organizations support a strong mandatory standard and are working to strengthen the voluntary standard for furniture stability as well.

The current voluntary standard has not done enough to reduce tip-overs. It applies only to dressers over 30 inches tall, even though children have been killed by shorter dressers. It also is tested to only a 50-pound load, which does not adequately address the weight of a five-year-old. In addition, the current tests do not account for the real-world situations that may contribute to tipping – such as carpeting, whether drawers are full, and the dynamic force of a child climbing onto furniture. Most importantly, manufacturers can choose to not meet this voluntary standard, even as weak as it is.

The STURDY Act would require the CPSC to create a mandatory rule for free-standing clothing storage units to protect children from tip-over incidents. The rule would:

- Cover all clothing storage units, even those under 30 inches;
- Require testing to simulate the weights of children up to 72 months old;
- Require testing measures to account for scenarios involving carpeting, loaded drawers, and the dynamic force of a climbing child;
- Mandate strong warning requirements; and
- Require the CPSC to issue the mandatory standard within one year of enactment.

We strongly urge you to co-sponsor the STURDY Act to help prevent any more children from dying or becoming injured from furniture tip-overs.

Please contact Syd Terry from Rep. Schakowsky's office at Syd.Terry@mail.house.gov or 202-225-2111 if you will co-sponsor the STURDY Act. As an additional resource, please view our fact sheet [here](#). If you have any questions about the bill or would like more information, please contact any of the organizations below.

Sincerely,

Nancy Cowles, Executive Director
Kids In Danger | 312-595-0649

Crystal Ellis, Founding Member
Parents Against Tip-overs | 206-372-9602

Remington A. Gregg, Counsel for Civil Justice and Consumer rights
Public Citizen | 202-454-5117

Zach Laris, Director, Federal Advocacy & Child Welfare Policy
American Academy of Pediatrics | 202-347-8600

William Wallace, Manager, Home and Products Policy
Consumer Reports | 202-462-6262

Rachel Weintraub, Legislative Director and General Counsel
Consumer Federation of America | 202-939-1012

Kids In Danger (KID) is a nonprofit organization dedicated to protecting children by fighting for product safety. KID was founded in 1998 by the parents of sixteen-month-old Danny Keysar who died in his Chicago childcare home when a portable crib collapsed around his neck. www.KidsInDanger.org

Parents Against Tip-Overs (PAT) is a nationwide coalition of parents who want to see an end to TV and furniture tip-over injuries and deaths. The group was founded in 2018 by parents of young children who have lost their lives from a furniture tip-over incident. www.stoptipovers.org

Public Citizen is a national non-profit organization with more than 500,000 members and supporters. We represent the public interest through legislative and administrative advocacy, litigation, research, and public education on a broad range of issues that include product safety and consumer rights in the marketplace. www.citizen.org

The American Academy of Pediatrics is an organization of 67,000 primary care pediatricians, pediatric medical subspecialists and pediatric surgical specialists dedicated to the health, safety and well-being of infants, children, adolescents and young adults. For more information, visit www.aap.org and follow us on Twitter @AmerAcadPeds.

Consumer Reports is an independent, nonprofit membership organization that works side by side with consumers to create a fairer, safer, and healthier world. For 83 years, CR has provided evidence-based product testing and ratings, rigorous research, hard-hitting investigative journalism, public education, and steadfast policy action on behalf of consumers' interests. Unconstrained by advertising or other commercial influences, CR has exposed landmark public health and safety issues and strives to be a catalyst for pro-consumer changes in the marketplace. From championing responsible auto safety standards, to winning food and water protections, to enhancing healthcare quality, to fighting back against predatory lenders in the financial markets, Consumer Reports has always been on the front lines, raising the voices of consumers. www.consumerreports.org

The Consumer Federation of America is a nonprofit association of nearly 300 consumer groups that, since 1968, has sought to advance the consumer interest through research, advocacy, and education. www.consumerfed.org