

***Consumers Union * Consumer Federation of America ***
*** Kids in Danger ***
*** U.S. Public Interest Research Group * Public Citizen ***
National Research Center for Women & Families

March 5, 2008

Dear Senator Feinstein:

We are writing to you as national organization dedicated to consumer protection issues, particularly issues regarding children. We write to thank you for your leadership in offering your amendment to S. 2663, the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) Reform Act and to extend our support for this amendment that would help reduce infant injuries and deaths due to unsafe secondhand cribs.

This amendment would apply Consumer Product Safety standards to the commercial use or sale of dangerous *secondhand* cribs in order to protect infants. It is critical that the definition of “commercial users” include hotels and motels and that hotels and motels are stopped from providing unsafe cribs for use by unsuspecting consumers. It is also vital that the definition of commercial user include childcare facilities and family childcare homes to protect children as broadly as possible.

This amendment is so important because currently, the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission’s (CPSC) mandatory standards and industry’s voluntary standards apply only to *new* cribs sold on the market; they do not apply to the sale or commercial use of secondhand cribs. Most crib-related injuries and deaths occur in secondhand cribs. According to the most recent data from CPSC, every year, approximately 32 children die from injuries sustained in cribs and more than 11,300 children require hospital treatment for crib-related injuries.¹ The CPSC has estimated that the cost to society from deaths due to cribs is at least \$150 million per year.

Many of our colleagues have worked toward the successful passage of state laws in Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Illinois, Louisiana, Michigan, New Jersey, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont, and Washington that make it illegal to manufacture or sell a crib that does not meet current safety standards. We have witnessed excellent results due to these laws. Therefore, we strongly believe that children in every state deserve this basic protection.

¹ “Nursery Product- Related Injuries and Deaths to Children under age Five,” Consumer Product Safety Commission Memorandum, Risana T. Chowdhury, Division of Hazard Analysis, February 2008 available on the web at: <http://www.cpsc.gov/library/nursery06.pdf>.

We thank you for your commitment to product safety.

Sincerely,

Rachel Weintraub
Director of Product Safety and Senior Counsel
Consumer Federation of America

Ellen Bloom
Director, Federal Policy
Consumers Union

Ami Gadhia
Policy Counsel
Consumers Union

Ed Mierzwinski
Federal Consumer Program Director
U.S. PIRG

David Arkush
Director, Congress Watch division
Public Citizen

Nancy A. Cowles
Executive Director
Kids in Danger

Paul Brown
Government Relations Manager
National Research Center for Women &
Families