

September 12, 2019

Dear Representative:

As organizations dedicated to improving consumer protections, we write to express our support for three consumer product safety bills as they move to the House floor. These bills would enhance protections to prevent deaths from portable fuel cans, injuries and deaths from carbon monoxide poisoning, and reduce exposure to harmful flame retardants. We urge you to support these bills to protect children and all consumers from preventable injuries and deaths.

The Nicholas and Zachary Burt Carbon Monoxide Poisoning Prevention Act of 2019 (H.R. 1618) would establish a grant program, administered by the CPSC, that would encourage states to require the installation of residential carbon monoxide detectors, including for vulnerable populations. According to the CDC, during 2010–2015, a total of 2,244 deaths resulted from unintentional carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning, with 393 of those deaths occurring in 2015. This bill seeks to reduce carbon monoxide poisonings.

The Portable Fuel Container Safety Act of 2019 (H.R. 806) would help prevent flame-jetting incidents through establishing a binding and enforceable standard that would require flame mitigation devices, or flame arrestors, on portable fuel containers to prevent flames from entering these containers and igniting the gases inside. According to National Fire Protection Association estimates, fire departments responded to an average of 160,910 fires per year between 2007 and 2011 that started with ignition of a flammable or combustible liquid, resulting in an estimated 454 civilian deaths, 3,910 civilian injuries, and \$1.5 billion in direct property damage per year.

The Safer Occupancy Furniture Flammability Act, or SOFFA (H.R. 2647), would adopt a California flammability standard as a federal flammability standard to help protect against the risk of upholstered furniture fires and consumer exposure to flame retardant chemicals. Today's California standard, TB 117-2013, is currently the strongest measure U.S. consumers have to keep them protected from purchasing upholstered furniture that is either highly flammable or loaded with flame-retardant chemicals. While this bill seeks to protect consumers from both fires and flame retardant exposure, we urge members to strengthen the bill through amending it so that other states retain the ability to exceed TB 117-2013's level of protection if they so choose.

These bills offer a critical opportunity to protect children and all consumers from preventable injuries and deaths. We urge you to support these child health and safety bills, and to vote "yes" on them as they move to the House floor.

Sincerely,

Alaska Public Interest Research Group (AkPIRG)

Center for Justice & Democracy

Chicago Consumer Coalition

Child Injury Prevention Alliance

Consumer Assistance Council, Inc.

Consumer Federation of America

Kids In Danger

National Consumers League

OHSU/Doernbecher Tom Sargent Safety Center

Parents for Window Blind Safety

Public Citizen

Safe Kids Worldwide

Safe States Alliance

The Society for Advancement of Violence and Injury Research (SAVIR)

Virginia Citizens Consumer Council

cc: Members of the House of Representatives