

Hello, my name is Crystal Ellis. 6 years ago today, I removed my son from life support, because of injuries resulting from a furniture tip-over. Camden is a casualty of not only a specific manufacturer that chose to ignore “voluntary standards” that were already weak and ineffective at preventing injuries and deaths, his death is the consequence of an agency tasked with protecting consumers that has their hands tied by a small budget and the 6(b) gag order that prevents them from being able to do their job of protecting consumers.

The CPSC is the agency that has CONSUMER in its title, but has a history with struggles in being able to actually represent the voices and interests of Americans. This is in great part because of an unbalanced influence by industry, since 1981. Industry will always try and convince all parties tasked with regulation, that they can do a great job with self-regulation and the answer to all problems is de-regulation. Self-regulation is impossible, when it will affect the bottom line. De-regulation has hurt consumers in innumerable ways. Nancy Beck has a strong history of de-regulation and ignoring risk assessment data. This would be devastating for an agency that is already hurt by a balance of power in favor of industry.

Americans believe that if a product is in our marketplace, it has been vetted and tested by their government and would not be sold if it wasn't safe. They don't know which agency has this responsibility and they don't know who to report to, when they have problems. This lack of visibility favors industry and allows companies, like the one that killed my child, to hide their injuries and deaths for decades, without recalls or civil penalties of any significant amount or public awareness. Looking at Nancy Beck's history, consumers would be at an even bigger

disadvantage with her at the helm. We need a champion for protecting consumers and standing up to big companies that will fight hard to hide all of their misdeeds.