

I'm Janet McGee, a founding member of Parents Against Tip-overs, which is a nationwide coalition of parents who have lost their children from furniture and TV tip-overs. On average, tip-overs happen every 24 minutes and a child in the US dies every 2 weeks from a tip-over.

For about 20 years, the ASTM sub-committee that sets the voluntary safety standard for clothing storage units has been painstakingly slow to solve the furniture tip-over problem that has unknowingly lurked inside U.S. homes for decades. It's a problem that has, and continues to kill hundreds of children (my son, Ted, being one of them) and injure thousands more. We parents rely heavily on the Agency to use every tool available to them to stop production and sales, and push for recalls of unstable furniture on the market. While most manufacturers may tell parents to simply anchor your furniture, the real problem we face as a nation is poorly designed and unstable dressers, a risk that cannot be mitigated solely by anchoring. Just last week we watched nanny cam footage of a piece of furniture that fell on two children; the furniture HAD been anchored to a stud in the wall.

We need the Commission to lead their charge of protecting consumers, not defending businesses. We need the CPSC to push the voluntary standard process to result in a robust and effective standard that will save lives. The CPSC is currently conducting research on the adequacy of the current standard, has issued an ANPR, and is expected to issue an NPR this year. Would Nancy Beck support that? Would she find that a child dying every 2 weeks from a tip-over is sufficient risk for the CPSC to take action and aggressively pursue writing a mandatory standard? Nancy Beck's history of deregulation and protecting businesses in her position at OMB and EPA is deeply concerning as we consider what that might look like for the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission. We depend on this agency to protect our families.

As parents and families who have lost their children to defective products, Parents Against Tip-overs stands against the nomination of Nancy Beck for the US CPSC Chairperson. We have significant concerns regarding how well consumers will be protected if she were to lead the Agency.

Thank you for allowing me to voice our concern today. I'm now going to turn it over to Crystal Ellis.