



Consumer Federation of America

May 10, 2022

Senator Maria Cantwell
Chair
Committee on Commerce, Science and
Transportation
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Senator Roger Wicker
Ranking Member
Committee on Commerce, Science and
Transportation
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Re: S. 3232, Stop Tip-overs of Unstable, Risky Dressers on Youth Act (STURDY Act); S. 3278, Reese's Law; and S. 4145, Consumer Protection Remedies Act of 2022

Dear Chair Cantwell and Ranking Member Wicker,

Consumer Federation of America (CFA) writes to you in strong support of three important bills that protect consumers: S. 3232, Stop Tip-overs of Unstable, Risky Dressers on Youth Act (STURDY Act); S. 3278, Reese's Law; and S. 4145, Consumer Protection Remedies Act of 2022.

The Stop Tip-overs of Unstable, Risky Dressers on Youth Act (STURDY) is significant legislation that would direct the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) to create and finalize a mandatory stability standard to help prevent tip-over incidents involving dressers and other clothing storage furniture. The STURDY Act includes critical provisions that would require clothing storage units to be more stable, including a minimum test weight that better accounts for the forces generated by children on dressers; objective, repeatable, reproducible, and measurable tests that simulate real world use and account for impacts on clothing storage unit stability that may result from placement on carpeted surfaces, drawers with items in them, multiple open drawers, and dynamic force, greater clarity on which furniture is a "clothing storage unit" and must meet the standards; and warning requirements. The substitute bill, which will be considered by the Committee, represents broad agreement and compromise by all relevant stakeholders after months of work. This language is embodied in the substitute amendment, and we urge support for this language which will prevent tragedies and save lives.

Reese's Law, named after 18-month-old Reese Hamsmith, who died in 2020 after ingesting a button cell battery, would protect consumers, especially children, from the ingestion hazard posed by button cell and coin batteries. The bill would direct the U.S. CPSC to create mandatory safety standards to prevent the accidental ingestion of button batteries in children by: creating performance standards to require the compartments of consumer products containing button cell or coin batteries to be secure to prevent access by children six years old or younger; and by requiring visible warning labels that clearly identify the hazard, that instruct consumers to keep new and used button cell or coin batteries out of reach, and direct



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consumers to seek immediate medical attention if such batteries are ingested. Reese's law will require strong standards that will protect children.

The Consumer Protection Remedies Act of 2022 is vital legislation that would give the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) clear authority to return funds to defrauded and deceived consumers, and deter wrongdoers with threat of restitution, injunctions, and removal of their ill-gotten gains. This bill will extend the § 13(b) authorities for equitable remedies to all violations of the FTC Act, without exclusions. The FTC's authority is critically important as fraud reports and losses in recent years continue to grow—consumers reported losing more than \$5.8 billion to fraud in 2021, a more than 70% increase over reported fraud loss volumes in 2020.¹ The FTC cannot adequately protect consumers or combat unfair, deceptive, and fraudulent practices without this critical authority. The Consumer Protection Remedies Act of 2022 is necessary to protect consumers and deter fraud and other harmful practices.

We strongly support the Stop Tip-overs of Unstable, Risky Dressers on Youth Act (STURDY Act); Reese's Law; and the Consumer Protection Remedies Act of 2022 and urge the Committee to quickly pass these bills without weakening amendments. We look forward to working with the Committee to pass these important bills that will protect consumers.

Sincerely,

Rachel Weintraub
Legislative Director and General Counsel

Rachel Gittleman
Financial Services Outreach Manager

Erin Witte
Director of Consumer Protection

¹ Federal Trade Commission, *New Data Shows FTC Received 2.8 Million Fraud Reports from Consumers in 2021* (Feb. 22, 2022), <https://www.ftc.gov/news-events/news/press-releases/2022/02/new-data-shows-ftc-received-28-million-fraud-reports-consumers-2021-0>.