



July 22, 2024

The Honorable Gus Bilirakis, Chair
The Honorable Jan Schakowsky, Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Innovation, Data, and Commerce
Committee on Energy and Commerce
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chair Bilirakis and Ranking Member Schakowsky:

Consumer Federation of America (CFA) and Kids In Danger (KID) respectfully submit this letter and request that it is accepted into the record for the July 23, 2024 subcommittee hearing “The Fiscal Year 2025 Consumer Product Safety Commission Budget.”

The CPSC is an independent agency charged with a critical mission to protect the public from unreasonable risks of illness, injury, or death associated with over 15,000 different types of consumer products, including children’s products. CFA and KID strongly support CPSC’s vital safety work. Consumers depend on the CPSC to protect their families from unsafe products, especially as the marketplace rapidly changes. For example, in FY 2023, the CPSC screened more than 3 million listings on online platforms, resulting in the removal of more than 57,000 recalled or otherwise violative product listings. However, CPSC’s ability to act is contingent on adequate funding. CPSC’s significant funding hardships can and will impact enforcement, compliance, workforce, and port surveillance.

Through the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), CPSC received one-time funding and expanded port surveillance and inspections in collaboration with Customs and Border Protection. There are notable examples of how this work directly impacts consumer safety, including the seizure of 1,500 children’s toys that violated federal safety requirements at the end of February 2024¹ and the seizure of over 2,000 unsafe baby products.² Unfortunately, by the end of FY 2024, the funding will be exhausted, impinging on the CPSC’s ability to protect consumers and their families from unsafe products. CPSC must have an adequate budget that reflects its critical safety mission.

¹ U.S. Customs and Border Protection. (2024, June 18). *CBP Seized 1,500 Toys that Violated Federal Safety Requirements* [Press release]. <https://www.cbp.gov/newsroom/local-media-release/cbp-seized-1500-toys-violated-federal-safety-requirements>

² Chidbachian A. (2024, April 29). *Unsafe baby toys shipped from China seized at LA port*. *FOX 11 Los Angeles*. <https://www.foxla.com/news/unsafe-baby-toys-shipped-from-china-seized-at-la-port>

CPSC's work is invaluable, and we respectfully urge every member of the Subcommittee to empower the CPSC to continue its vital safety work and keep the public safe from hazardous products.

Respectfully submitted,

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Nancy A. Cowles
Executive Director
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cc: Members of the Subcommittee on Innovation, Data, and Commerce