

August 25, 2025

Peter A. Feldman, Acting Chairman
U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission
4330 East West Highway
Bethesda, MD 20814
Sent via email to amills@cpsc.gov and cpssc-os@cpsc.gov

RE: FY 2026/2027 Agenda and Priorities Hearing

Dear Chairman Feldman:

The undersigned organizations write today to urge the Consumer Product Safety Commission (“Commission” or “CPSC”) to allow stakeholder participation, including oral presentations, at its annual Agenda and Priorities Hearing, in line with longstanding agency norms.

Pursuant to the Consumer Product Safety Act (“CPSA”), 15 U.S.C. § 2053(j), “at least 30 days before the beginning of each fiscal year (FY), the Commission shall conduct a public hearing on the agenda and priorities and shall provide reasonable opportunity for the submission of comments.”¹ As you are aware, oral presentations are an essential mechanism for ensuring that the Commission hears directly from key stakeholders, especially parent and consumer advocates. This format not only preserves transparency and public trust, but it also allows for dynamic engagement, clarification of complex issues, and timely input on emerging hazards. Our organizations recognize and appreciate how oral presentations have resulted in the active engagement of Commissioners, whose questions, comments, and feedback make the meeting a meaningful experience for all involved.

For example, at the Commission’s [Agenda and Priorities Hearing for FY 2025 and 2026](#), held last year, numerous consumer safety-focused and medical nonprofit organizations, as well as parent advocates whose families have been directly impacted by product hazards, also presented their perspectives, including Consumer Federation of America, Consumer Reports, National Center for Health Research, and the American Academy of Pediatrics. This stakeholder participation exemplifies the spirit of the CPSA, which is distinguished by its provisions providing that consumers should actively participate in the administration and enforcement of rules designed to protect them and their loved ones from unreasonable risks of harm.²

¹ 15 U.S.C. § 2053(j), https://www.cpsc.gov/s3fs-public/pdfs/blk_media_cpsa.pdf?epslanguage=en.

² Joseph A. Page, Consumer Involvement and the Consumer Product Safety Act, 2 Hofstra L. Rev. 605 (1974). See also opening remarks of Senator Frank E. Moss (D.-Utah) at *Hearings on S.983, S.1658, S.1791, Before the Senate Comm. on Commerce*, 92d Cong., 1st Sess., ser. 27, pt. 1, at 2-3 (1971) (“citizen advocates both within and without government must have access to the regulators, so that consumer safety does not grow into a partnership of convenience between the regulator and the regulated, with the public interest subverted, and all but forgotten”).

Indeed, the CPSA—both in spirit and in text—creates points of access that invite consumers to participate meaningfully in the regulatory process, recognizing that those who benefit from the CPSC’s rules and actions have too much at stake to leave these decisions solely to the regulator.³ As many of the parent advocates have shared during the oral presentation at the Agenda and Priorities Hearings over the years, the CPSC’s rules and actions can be the difference between life or death – a family celebrating a child’s next birthday or mourning the loss of a loved one.

The Agenda and Priorities Hearing is not solely a mechanism for consumer participation; it invites participation from all key stakeholders, including those from industry and elected officials. For example, at last year’s hearing, a trade association and local government officials shared input from their jurisdictions, including a state Assembly Member, a county Board of Supervisors member, and a county public health officer.

All these oral presentations were essential for ensuring that the Commission received direct input from all key stakeholders, including consumers, safety advocates, industry representatives, local leaders, medical and public health experts, and others. Written comments are essential, but they do not replace the intangible value that oral testimony provides. Oral presentations ensure a deeper discussion and support a more responsive decision-making process, which is especially important as the Commission determines its priorities for the coming fiscal years.

For these reasons, we respectfully ask that the Commission affirm its commitment to robust public participation by maintaining opportunities for oral testimony at the FY 2026 and/or 2027 Agenda and Priorities Hearing.

Sincerely,

Consumer Federation of America
Consumer Reports
U.S. PIRG
National Consumer League
National Center for Health and Research
American Academy of Pediatrics

³ Page, 2 Hofstra L. Rev. at 606, 612-617.