

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20510

May 17, 2021

Honorable Joseph R. Biden, Jr.
President of the United States
The White House
Washington, DC 20052

Dear Mr. President:

As longtime consumer advocates, we write to you regarding the leadership of the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC or Commission). For too long, the individuals nominated and confirmed to serve as commissioners and chairs of the agency have not been chosen for their knowledge of and dedication to consumer product safety, but instead been industry-backed individuals, corporate lawyers, or acolytes of big business. This year, you have the opportunity to reshape the CPSC, and we hope that you will do so by quickly nominating diverse consumer leaders to the Commission.

The CPSC is a vitally important independent agency with jurisdiction over more than 15,000 consumer products. Throughout our careers, we have worked hard to protect consumers and, in particular, have worked to strengthen the CPSC and make sure that it is doing its job to protect consumers from deaths and injuries in their homes, on military bases, and in childcare facilities. From window coverings, organohalogen flame retardants, to safe sleeping environments for infants, the CPSC must continue its work to make products safer, to minimize deaths and injuries associated with consumer products, and to embrace new technologies to help families keep dangerous products out of their homes. To do this, the CPSC needs new, dynamic leadership.

You can fill three seats on the Commission—a rare opportunity to rebuild the Commission and infuse the CPSC with new ideas, fresh perspective, and greater diversity. We urge you to nominate a slate that is committed to leading the CPSC in this new era. As you consider this rare opportunity that you have to remake the agency, we urge you to nominate consumer advocates dedicated to fighting on behalf of consumers and who will robustly strengthen and enforce consumer and product safety laws. This should include nominees who have committed to addressing racial disparities in product safety, worked collaboratively with

consumer advocates across government to tackle COVID-19, and embraced new technologies to make products safer.

We applaud your commitment to a diverse cabinet and leadership of independent agencies, and urge you to quickly nominate a slate for the CPSC that has deep expertise in protecting consumers from hazards posed by unsafe products.

Sincerely,



RICHARD BLUMENTHAL

Chair

Subcommittee on Consumer Protection,
Product Safety, and Data Security
Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation
U.S. Senate



JAN SCHAKOWSKY

Chair

Subcommittee on Consumer
Protection & Commerce
Committee on Energy & Commerce
U.S. House of Representatives

Cc:

The Honorable Kamala D. Harris
Vice President of the United States