



**U.S. CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY COMMISSION
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**STATEMENT OF CHAIRMAN ELLIOT F. KAYE
TO THE FINANCIAL SERVICES AND GENERAL GOVERNMENT SUBCOMMITTEE OF THE
U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS
FISCAL YEAR 2017 BUDGET HEARING**

February 25, 2016

Good afternoon Chairman Crenshaw, Ranking Member Serrano and the members of the Subcommittee. Thank you for the invitation to speak again about the work of the United States Consumer Product Safety Commission and our budget for Fiscal Year 2017.

As I noted last year, CPSC's vital health and safety mission touches every home in some way, each and every day. We believe we provide an excellent return on investment for the American people. We run a very lean operation, especially considering the thousands of different product categories in our jurisdiction from hoverboards to laminate flooring. And we cover them all with a budget in the millions, not the billions.

We are very appreciative of the continued bipartisan support for the Commission and our work. We saw this support in the overwhelming, nearly unanimous vote to pass the Consumer Product Safety Improvement Act of 2008 (CPSIA), and we see it in the appropriations levels the Congress has provided.

These levels have allowed our dedicated staff to drive standards development to make children's products safer, to increase our enforcement effectiveness and to better educate consumers about product-related hazards, especially drowning prevention, brain safety, poison prevention and TV/furniture tipovers.

Our proposed budget reflects our staff's continuing efforts to carry out and enforce CPSIA-driven enhancements to consumer product safety. Unfortunately, not all of those priorities and requirements are achievable at our current funding levels. For that reason, we were pleased to see the President include in his budget certain important consumer product safety

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initiatives. These initiatives, if funded, will absolutely advance consumer safety and at the same time provide real value to those in industry making or importing compliant products.

First, we are again seeking sufficient funding to achieve fully the intent of and direction in Section 222 of the CPSIA. Section 222 called on the Commission to develop a Risk Assessment Methodology (RAM) to identify at our nation's ports of entry likely violative imported consumer products. In 2011, we created a small-scale RAM pilot that has been a success. However, the pilot alone does not fulfill the direction and vision of Congress and without full implementation, we will not be able to integrate sufficiently the CPSC into the much larger US Government-wide effort coming online later this year to create a "Single Window" for import and export filing of all products. If the CPSC can be fully integrated into the Single Window, we can transform Congress' vision of a national-scope, risk-based, data-driven screening at the ports into reality – a reality that would mean safer products in the hands of American consumers and faster entry for importers of compliant products.

Our proposed budget also includes increased funding to pursue a "Healthy Children at Home, at Play and in School" initiative. This initiative includes researching two pressing public health concerns: (1) exposure to potential chronic hazards related to nanotechnology in consumer products and (2) exposure to potential chronic hazards in crumb rubber used in artificial field turf and playgrounds. In fact, we were pleased to be part of a recent announcement along with our sister agencies, the Environmental Protection Agency and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to begin a comprehensive study of crumb rubber in playgrounds and artificial turf.

Chemical exposure to our children is a critical public health concern and providing meaningful answers to parents on these questions is one of my top priorities. While the joint agency crumb rubber effort that is now underway is a huge step forward, we cannot solve this problem without Congress fully engaging on this topic, as well.

Finally, as I discussed last year when testifying before you, one of the soundest investments I can make as chairman of this agency is to continue to foster a culture of civility and dialogue, both at the Commission and with our stakeholders. As the current campaign season sadly reminds us daily, the political currents flow powerfully against reaching out and attempting a collaborative discussion on difficult policy questions. Despite those pressures, and I cannot overstate how intense – and I might add, counterproductive – they are, I am pleased to work with a group of Commissioners who share my view that there is a better and more productive way to solve challenging problems.

There is no doubt we have product safety challenges that need to be addressed. I continue

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to feel a real urgency to address persistent hazards such as window coverings and portable generators while also staying on top of promising emerging technologies such as 3D printers and wearable technology. I am hopeful we can continue to engage in a productive dialogue about the resources the Commission needs to match our expansive and critical health and safety mission.

Thank you again for the invitation to speak to you about the CPSC and the life-saving work undertaken by our staff. I look forward to answering questions you may have.