

As one of the smaller agencies that this Committee oversees, the Consumer Product Safety Commission has a critically important mission, to protect consumers against unreasonable risks of injury from consumer products. Over 15,000 different products fall within the Commission’s jurisdiction—from toys and baby cribs to swimming pools and recreational off-highway vehicles. However, over the years there have been many issues raised with the Commission’s implementation of its mission. In particular, many process concerns have taken focus and resources away from the important work that the Commission and its staff have to accomplish. In particular, the continuing absence of meaningful third party test burden reduction for small businesses, after Congress has directly called for such measures with legislation and appropriated funds, is particularly frustrating.

Today, I am pleased to see the Chairman of the Commission, Elliot Kaye, as well as Commissioners Ann Marie Buerkle and Joseph Mohorovic before the Subcommittee for the first time in their new capacities. Commissioner Adler, we welcome you back before the Subcommittee. I would also like to welcome members of the second panel of witnesses here to talk about Mr. Pompeo’s bipartisan legislation, H.R. 999.

Oversight of an agency with such broad jurisdiction is critical to ensure that unsafe products are either stopped from coming into the stream of commerce or are taken off the shelves in a seamless manner. I look forward to hearing from the Commissioners about issues currently before the Commission and budget priorities for the upcoming fiscal year.

In particular, I would like to hear more about how the Commission prioritizes consumer education initiatives for known hazards in specialized circumstances, such as the newly announced “Best for Kids” Program for window coverings, and how working with industry has provided opportunities for

additional outreach. We have seen an increase in company-driven safety initiatives, from a few of the Super Bowl ads earlier this year to the self-directed recall of Fitbit activity bands last year. We hear a lot about industry collaboration from the Commission but it is interesting that companies see more value is working outside of the system. The potential for cooperation and partnerships should not be overlooked when consumer safety is at stake.

Everyone in this room shares the common goal of working together to protect consumers from unreasonable risks of injury or death. Today's hearing is a positive step and I look forward to continuing to work with my colleagues on the ROV, and other, issues.