



COMMITTEE ON DEMOCRATS
ENERGY & COMMERCE
RANKING MEMBER FRANK PALLONE, JR.

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**Statement by Ranking Member Frank Pallone, Jr., as prepared for delivery
House Energy and Commerce Committee
Subcommittee on Commerce, Manufacturing and Trade
Hearing on “Industry Perspectives on the Consumer Product Safety Commission”**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I want to start by noting that we received letters from Representatives Engel (a member of the full Committee), Honda, Maloney, and Kelly requesting a member panel at this hearing.

Each of these members has introduced legislation that would amend the jurisdiction of the Consumer Product Safety Commission over guns and toy guns. The issues raised by these distinguished members certainly are worthy of discussion and I am disappointed that their request was denied by the Chairman and by the Majority.

While the topic of today’s hearing was listed as industry perspectives on the CPSC, I’m encouraged that the perspective of consumer advocates was rightly added, and I look forward to that testimony.

In 2008, Congress passed the Consumer Product Safety Improvement Act (CPSIA). CPSIA and follow-up legislation in 2011 made major improvements to CPSC’s operations and to the safety of consumer products.

One of the most successful sections of the CPSIA was the “Danny Keysar Child Product Safety Notification Act, which was authored by Ranking Member Schakowsky. This portion of the law requires the Commission to develop mandatory safety standards for durable infant or toddler products, such as infant walkers, high chairs, and cribs. Final safety standards for 14 products have been promulgated, and proposed safety standards for six more products have been issued.

That is great progress, but there is more to do. As the Commission moves beyond implementation of the CPSIA, the Commission needs an agile system to deal with emerging hazards. Recently, we have heard numerous reports of hoverboards catching fire or exploding, not to mention all those videos of riders falling off of their hoverboards.

There is the ongoing issue of artificial turf fields. For over a year, I have been calling on the CPSC and others to conduct a comprehensive review of these fields and questioning the safety of crumb rubber used on artificial playing turf and playgrounds across the country. That crumb rubber is made of recycled tires that often contain cancer-causing chemicals. It is clear that we need more information about the safety of crumb rubber. But in the meantime, kids play on it every day, and so we need to begin this review immediately.

Although the CPSC Commissioners are not here today, I look forward to hearing from our witnesses about how the CPSC can work with industry and consumer safety advocates on these types of emerging hazards. I want to know how the Commission can best address foreseeable risks and be better prepared when unexpected problems occur.

We should strive for proactive safety, instead of just waiting to react after injuries or deaths occur. We should continue to encourage new and innovative products, but they must be safe for consumers.

The CPSC plays a vital role in protecting lives of all Americans. It is a small agency with a big mission. We must ensure that the CPSC has the support from Congress and the resources it needs to fulfill that mission.

Thank you.

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