

February 9, 2011

Dear Chairman Issa and Members of the Committee,

I am deeply concerned that the CPSC mandated database, part of the CPSIA, is yet again in danger as the National Association of Manufacturers, and other organizations, try to suppress this life-saving database. CPSC's product safety database is an essential part of keeping our children safe by making consumer experience with products accessible to **ALL**.

On December 19, 2002, my 13-month-old daughter, Elizabeth (Ellie), died in a poorly and dangerously designed play yard. I live my life often looking back through "what if's" and "should have's," but I've learned to focus this anger and sadness into efforts that protect our children so that no parent ever has to suffer from what I, and others, have. There are too many of us parents whose children were injured or killed due to manufacturer carelessness and inadequate testing of their products. CPSC's database is going to protect millions of children, because it provides a place for parent and caregivers to go when considering product choices and histories, especially those products intended to benefit the comfort and safety of our children.

Since Elizabeth's death, I gave birth to a third daughter. Having been so disappointed in the things I learned about children's product safety since Ellie's accident, it is an understatement to say I was paranoid and at a loss as to how I might raise another baby, using products whose manufacturer's executives or legal teams were suppressing information essential to my child's safety.

Indeed, there is the CPSC recall list, but what about the complaints lying in the "inbox" of someone's desk, waiting to be investigated? What about those products with flaws, but only a few complaints, yet warnings never made it to the public until it resulted in a death? It took nine months for the CPSC to release Ellie's story and the warning that went with it. It wasn't even a recall; Graco only had to offer new warning labels cautioning people of the possibility and danger of entrapment. Families should have a right to know the information as soon as it becomes an issue. Not when it is too late.

The CPSC database gives parents, grandparents, families, friends, medical personnel, and even retailers, immediate and FREE information on ANY problems reported about a particular product, not just those few which rise to the surface because a child has either died or been seriously injured by the product. By that time, it's dangerously too late. As with Ellie's case, it could take months before the public sees this information.

Of course manufacturers are not going to be pleased with production of such a database because it means reports of issues and concerns with their products could show up, and that means having to spend more money on assuring the safety of their product if they want it to sell. A child is

priceless, beyond what any definition might attach itself to that word. I don't know whether Ellie was destined to be a ballerina or a professional race car driver. I also don't know what she might have looked like on her 9<sup>th</sup> birthday this past November, or what her laughter sounds like. What I do know is that her life was ripped from her too soon.

The CPSC's database demands that manufacturers hold themselves to higher standards and gives the public the chance to decide for themselves, whether a product's small glitch or major defect is worth taking a risk on and buying for their child. I cringe at the thought that a manufacturer might put enough pressure on this committee in order to divert the creation and process of this database in any way. Companies who make products for our children deserve to be held accountable and at high standards for that product at every moment. I certainly can never hide from my grief, my pain, or the permanent hole in my life that once was my toddling, smiling child. Manufacturers don't deserve the ability to hide.

Sincerely,

Lisa L. Olney (f.k.a. Davis)

14 Bellmore Dr.

Orford, NH 03777