

Mr. Speaker, I thank Representative DAVIDSON for his cosponsorship.

When we look at market volatility, the use of cryptocurrency for ransomware in recent attacks like the Colonial Pipeline and tax evasion, it is critical that we get in on the front end of this.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to work with Representative MCNERNEY, and I urge support for H.R. 3723.

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from Arizona (Mrs. LESKO), an important member of the Energy and Commerce full committee and also the subcommittee.

Mrs. LESKO. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Florida (Mr. BILIRAKIS) for yielding to me.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 3723, the Consumer Safety Technology Act.

This is important legislation that helps the U.S. solidify its position as a world leader in technology and innovation while protecting our constituents.

This legislation builds on the American COMPETE Act, which sought to remove burdensome regulatory barriers to promote American innovation and consider how safely using artificial intelligence can transform the future.

This is also a critical step in maintaining our global competitive edge in emerging technologies over foreign adversaries like China. It will make us less reliant on these bad actors for important technologies.

The Consumer Safety and Technology Act establishes a pilot program to explore how to safely use artificial intelligence to protect consumers from unsafe products while advancing cutting-edge American innovation.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to gentlewoman from Illinois (Ms. SCHAKOWSKY), the chairwoman of the subcommittee.

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the authors of this bipartisan legislation, Representatives MCNERNEY, BURGESS, SOTO, GUTHRIE, and DAVIDSON.

Mr. Speaker, the Federal Government should put the incredible technological innovation of the last few years to work for the American people, and that is exactly what this bill does. It promotes the use of artificial intelligence in product safety and studies how blockchain can protect consumers.

□ 1500

Regulators will be stronger and the American consumer safer when we consider how these technologies can help them achieve this mission.

Part of the mission of the Federal Trade Commission is to protect consumers from unfair and deceptive business practices. It is important to keep track of any such practices in the digital token ecosystem where unscrupulous businesspeople may be seeking to take advantage of the vast wealth created by digital tokens. This bill directs

the Federal Trade Commission to report on its work keeping users of the digital token system safe.

Emerging technologies pose both perils and promise. That is why we must direct Federal agencies to make sure that consumers are safe.

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I have no other speakers.

Mr. Speaker, this is a very important bill. We have to get it past the finish line this time. I urge all of my colleagues to support this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I also urge support for this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3723.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. ROSENDALE. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 3(s) of House Resolution 8, the yeas and nays are ordered.

Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion are postponed.

SAFE SLEEP FOR BABIES ACT OF 2021

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3182) to provide that inclined sleepers for infants and crib bumpers shall be considered banned hazardous products under section 8 of the Consumer Product Safety Act, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 3182

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Safe Sleep for Babies Act of 2021”.

SEC. 2. BANNING OF INCLINED SLEEPERS FOR INFANTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, inclined sleepers for infants, regardless of the date of manufacture, shall be considered a banned hazardous product under section 8 of the Consumer Product Safety Act (15 U.S.C. 2057).

(b) INCLINED SLEEPER FOR INFANTS DEFINED.—In this section, the term “inclined sleeper for infants” means a product with an inclined sleep surface greater than ten degrees that is intended, marketed, or designed to provide sleeping accommodations for an infant up to 1 year old.

SEC. 3. BANNING OF CRIB BUMPERS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, crib bumpers, regardless of the date of manufacture, shall be considered a banned hazardous product under section 8 of the Consumer Product Safety Act (15 U.S.C. 2057).

(b) CRIB BUMPER DEFINED.—In this section, the term “crib bumper”—

(1) means any material that is intended to cover the sides of a crib to prevent injury to any crib occupant from impacts against the side of a crib or to prevent partial or complete access to any openings in the sides of a crib to prevent a crib occupant from getting any part of the body entrapped in any opening;

(2) includes a padded crib bumper, a supported and unsupported vinyl bumper guard, and vertical crib slat covers; and

(3) does not include a non-padded mesh crib liner.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) and the gentleman from Florida (Mr. BILIRAKIS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New Jersey.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 3182.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New Jersey?

There was no objection.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to speak in support of H.R. 3182, the Safe Sleep for Babies Act.

This important piece of legislation was reintroduced this Congress by Vice Chair CÁRDENAS and Chair SCHAKOWSKY of our Consumer Protection and Commerce Subcommittee.

Parents and caregivers deserve the peace of mind that any infant sleep product they buy is consistent with longstanding safe sleep recommendations that babies should only sleep on their backs on a firm, flat surface free of extra bedding.

This legislation would ban two very dangerous products for babies that defy safe sleep best practices and have tragically taken far too many infant lives: inclined sleepers and crib bumpers. To date, inclined sleepers have been linked to at least 94 infant fatalities, and crib bumpers have contributed to at least 107 deaths.

Inclined sleepers position babies on a dangerous incline that can lead to the baby's airway becoming obstructed, among other hazard patterns. Crib bumpers create unnecessary suffocation, entrapment, and strangulation risks for babies.

There is simply no reason either of these products should still be on the market. Yet, incline sleepers and crib bumpers are heavily marketed and remain widely available online and on store shelves. Many parents, grandparents, and caregivers continue to purchase these products, wholly unaware of the grave risks they pose to babies.

Since April 2019, when Consumer Reports first reported on the deadly toll of infant inclined products, an independent expert hired by the CPSC has confirmed that all sleep products with inclines greater than 10 degrees pose serious dangers to infants.

Earlier this month, CPSC approved a strong, new Federal safety standard on infant sleep products that will effectively prohibit infant inclined sleepers. However, the new safety standard will not take effect for some time, and there is still no Federal standard to eliminate the hazard posed by crib bumpers.

That is why this bill is necessary. H.R. 3182 bans crib bumpers along with inclined sleepers, and it will take effect 6 months after the date of enactment, making sure strong protections for babies are not needlessly delayed.

We must take action on this bill today, Mr. Speaker, to protect babies across the Nation. I call on my colleagues to support this measure, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 3182, the Safe Sleep for Babies Act. I thank Mr. CÁRDENAS and, of course, Chair SCHAKOWSKY for their hard work on this bill.

H.R. 3182 addresses the risk of dangers that infants face from inclined sleepers and crib bumpers. This bill bans all products with an inclined sleep surface greater than 10 degrees to address the tragic deaths related to inclined sleepers and any crib bumpers intended to cover the sides of a crib or that prevent access to openings on the sides of the crib.

I am always ready to work with my colleagues on the Energy and Commerce Committee to help protect Americans from potentially harmful products. That is the reason I requested this subcommittee.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this particular measure, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from Illinois (Ms. SCHAKOWSKY), who is the chair of the subcommittee and one of the major sponsors of the bill.

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I thank Mr. PALLONE and my ranking member because this is such an important bipartisan bill that is designed to save lives.

My colleague, TONY CÁRDENAS, and I introduced the Safe Sleep for Babies Act after the release of several devastating reports linking inclined sleep products and crib bumpers to infant deaths. This urgently needed legislation will add these dangerous products to the list of banned hazardous products under the Consumer Product Safety Act.

The science is clear: The safest sleep environment for babies is a flat, firm, bare surface with no restraints or soft bedding. Infant inclined sleep products and crib bumpers are dangerous and should not be on the market at all.

If we do not pass this legislation, companies will continue to sell and market these products that can harm and even kill infants, and infants will continue to be harmed if we don't act

now. As a mother and grandmother, I know that we must act now to ensure that no more babies die from unsafe sleep products.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to support this bipartisan bill.

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I have no additional speakers, and I am prepared to close. I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE).

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, let me rise with a great deal of concern and, as well, righteousness and enthusiasm to support the Safe Sleep for Babies Act of 2021.

Our children are our most precious resource, and no one knows how to address parents who have had a child lose their life because of devices that were sold to them to comfort their babies. The Safe Sleep for Babies Act of 2021, in particular, is going to help to take those products off that heretofore have gone without discovery, without assessment, and without penalty. They are devices that are in cribs and bassinets that have not been assessed to cause death.

Babies have been losing their lives to frightened parents, shocked parents, caretakers, and grandparents. What a tragedy to lose that infant in the early part of their life through no fault of the caretaker, the parent, and, certainly, that baby.

This legislation, I hope, will find its way quickly through the United States Senate and as well find its way quickly to the President's desk.

As a member of the Judiciary Committee, we have, frighteningly, seen over the past weeks and months the loss of life of children through gun violence. We have a responsibility from the very birth of a child, from its time to come to be with its loving family, to find a way to protect and preserve its life. Babies, again, are enormously precious.

I think this legislation is long overdue. I ask my colleagues to support the Safe Sleep for Babies Act of 2021. I am glad to join the Energy and Commerce Committee and its original sponsor, Mr. CÁRDENAS, to be able to, hopefully, move this bill as quickly as possible.

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I have no additional speakers.

Mr. Speaker, I urge passage of this very important bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I also ask for support of the bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3182.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. ROSENDALE. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 3(s) of House Resolution 8, the yeas and nays are ordered.

Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion are postponed.

STOP TIP-OVERS OF UNSTABLE, RISKY DRESSERS ON YOUTH ACT

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1314) to require the Consumer Product Safety Commission to promulgate a consumer product safety rule for free-standing clothing storage units to protect children from tip-over related death or injury, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1314

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Stop Tip-overs of Unstable, Risky Dressers on Youth Act” or the “STURDY Act”.

SEC. 2. CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY STANDARD TO PROTECT AGAINST TIP-OVER OF CLOTHING STORAGE UNITS.

(a) CLOTHING STORAGE UNIT DEFINED.—In this section, the term “clothing storage unit” means any free-standing furniture item manufactured in the United States or imported for use in the United States that is intended for the storage of clothing, typical of bedroom furniture.

(b) CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY STANDARD REQUIRED.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subsection (c)(1), not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Consumer Product Safety Commission shall—

(A) in consultation with representatives of consumer groups, clothing storage unit manufacturers, craft or handmade furniture manufacturers, and independent child product engineers and experts, examine and assess the effectiveness of any voluntary consumer product safety standards for clothing storage units; and

(B) in accordance with section 553 of title 5, United States Code, promulgate a final consumer product safety standard for clothing storage units to protect children from tip-over-related death or injury that includes—

(i) tests that simulate the weight of children up to 60 pounds;

(ii) objective, repeatable, and measurable tests that simulate real world use and account for any impact on clothing storage unit stability that may result from placement on carpeted surfaces, drawers with items in them, multiple open drawers, or dynamic force;

(iii) testing of all clothing storage units, including those under 30 inches in height; and

(iv) warning requirements based on ASTM F2057-17, or its successor at the time of enactment, provided that the Consumer Product Safety Commission shall strengthen the requirements of ASTM F2057-17, or its successor, if reasonably necessary to protect children from tip-over-related death or injury.

(2) TREATMENT OF STANDARD.—A consumer product safety standard promulgated under paragraph (1) shall be treated as a consumer product safety rule promulgated under section 9 of the Consumer Product Safety Act (15 U.S.C. 2058).