



CPSC
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Public Affairs Office
U.S. CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY COMMISSION

Washington, D.C. 20207

WEB SITE: www.cpsc.gov

Date: 4-24-98 Time: 10:20 ^{4:30} a.m./p.m.

To: Mr. Tom Freedman

Organization: _____

Voice: _____ Fax: 202 456 7431

Subject: _____

From: Ms. Kathleen Bezala

Voice: (301) 504-0580 Ext. _____ Fax: (301) 504-0862 or (301) 504-0399

Pages (including cover sheet): 5

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NOTE:

Tomorrow, on Mother's Day, families across America will honor their mothers. Our mothers nurture us, encourage us, teach us, keep us safe, and bind our families together with their strength.

Government can help families by keeping the economy strong and creating an environment that helps them thrive.

One of the most important responsibilities of the federal government is to help keep families -- and especially children -- safe in their homes. Parents need to know that the products they buy and use every day in their homes are safe.

The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission is a small federal agency that has been working to keep families safe for 25 years, and has built a solid record of results for the American people. As we celebrate Mother's Day, CPSC will celebrate its 25th anniversary. CPSC's 25 years of work on keeping families safe has resulted in a 25-percent decline in the rate of injuries from consumer products and a 32-percent decline in the rate of death. That is indeed a success rate to be proud of.

Everyone remembers their favorite toy from childhood. It's the Consumer Product Safety Commission that is responsible for making sure toys meet tough federal safety requirements. Last year, the Commission worked with the U.S. Customs Service to confiscate more

-more-

than two million toys that violated U.S. safety laws, preventing them from ever reaching store shelves. Stringent CPSC regulations prohibit small parts on certain toys that may choke a small child. Those laws also ensure that toys that may be dangerous for our youngest children are clearly labeled to help parents make the right toy-buying decisions.

One of the first safety areas CPSC dealt with in the early 1970s was the high incidence of accidental poisonings involving young children. Since the passage of strict laws on child-resistant packaging, the lives of more than 800 kids have been saved. In 1972, 216 children died after swallowing household chemicals, medications and even common aspirin. Since the enactment of child-resistant packaging laws, that number has dropped by nearly 90% in 25 years.

In 1973, it's estimated that as many as 200 infants died annually in the United States from injuries associated with baby cribs. Many of these deaths happened when children were trapped and strangled in the spaces between the slats of the crib. From its inception, CPSC began working on standards to improve crib design and reduce these deaths. Despite increases in the population of infants and young children, annual deaths have been reduced by 75%. And the cribs on store shelves today are safer because of the efforts of the CPSC.

-more-

The Chairman of the Consumer Product Safety Commission, Ann Brown, sets an example for good government by working cooperatively with industry to set voluntary standards that save lives without more government regulation and red tape.

These are important accomplishments, but CPSC is working on new safety challenges to reduce injuries and deaths in the future. Today, I am announcing a new standard initiated by the CPSC to improve the safety of baby walkers.

Did you know that more young children are injured in baby walkers than by any other children's product? In 1995, there were an estimated 22,500 children treated in hospital emergency rooms because of injuries associated with these walkers.

The most common cause of the injuries -- and the most terrifying for parents -- is a fall down stairs. The new standard for baby walkers will make new stationary designs available and refine current designs to make the walkers stop before they can tumble down a staircase.

Because of the work of the Consumer Product Safety Commission, mothers have a little more piece of mind when they give their children a toy, or tuck them into bed at night. The hard work of the federal employees at the CPSC over the last 25 years makes the demanding job of being a mother a little easier.

-more-

So today, as we celebrate Mother's Day, I also want to congratulate the Consumer Product Safety Commission on 25 years of helping to keep our families safer in their homes.

-end-



CPSC ✓

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CPSC

U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission
Washington, DC 20207

Vulnerable Populations and Product Hazards

Fire

Each year, 3,800 people die from residential fires in the U.S. The risk for blacks is roughly twice as high as the risk for whites. Older housing stock and no or few smoke detectors are often the cause of this increased risk.

Old Cribs

Each year, 50 babies die in old, hazardous cribs. These cribs do not comply with CPSC safety standards. Low-income people may re-use older cribs. The hazards of old cribs include strangulation related to corner posts and missing or inadequate spacing of slats; and broken or missing hardware causing cribs to collapse.

Charcoal/Carbon Monoxide

Each year, 25 people die from carbon monoxide caused by burning charcoal indoors. Almost half of these deaths occur to ethnic minorities, particularly Hispanics and Asians. Differences in cultural practices, where charcoal may have been burned indoors, may be responsible for this. CPSC's new mandatory label for charcoal uses a pictogram (as well as words) to warn that charcoal must not be burned inside homes, tents, or vehicles.

CPSC's Use of Radio to Target Vulnerable Populations

Public Service Announcements -- In 1995 and 1996, CPSC produced radio public service announcements about product hazards and safety tips specifically addressed to Native Americans, Latinos, and African Americans. A unique set of radio spots for African Americans was composed and performed by singer/songwriter Marvin Matthews; these safety messages were done in rhythm & blues, gospel, urban contemporary, and jazz formats so they could fit "seamlessly" with the musical formats of targeted radio stations. Millions of listeners heard these radio spots.

Radio Actualities -- In 1998, CPSC plans to offer recorded safety messages ("actualities") through a toll-free number so radio stations can easily record and use these stories in their programs. The recorded messages will provide important product hazard warnings and safety messages for radio news directors to incorporate in their broadcasts. Targeted stations will be invited to call CPSC's toll-free number to get these messages for re-broadcast.

United States
CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY COMMISSION
Washington, D.C. 20207

Tom - Fight for this.
BR
Office of the Chairman

MEMORANDUM

DATE: November 2, 1998

TO : Bruce Reed
Assistant to the President for Domestic Policy

FROM : Ann Brown
Chairman

awb Thanks, Bruce!

SUBJECT: CPSC's Year 2000 budget

Thank you so much for offering to help out with CPSC's 2000 budget. The most valuable thing that you could do would be to call our OMB Associate Director to support our request of an additional \$5 million. He is Dan Mendelson, Associate Director for Health and Personnel, and his number is (202) 395-5178.

I am faxing you two supporting documents:

1. A one-pager explaining why CPSC needs an additional \$5 million and what the agency would do with the money. This paper includes a quotation from a new study by the Institute of Medicine that recommends the establishment of a research budget for CPSC. The Institute of Medicine is a private, non-profit organization that provides health policy advice under a congressional charter granted to the National Academy of Sciences. CPSC figures prominently in IOM's long-awaited comprehensive look at the problem of injury in America.
2. An article that appeared in the Washington Post announcing that CPSC won an "Innovations in American Government" award. Ten federal, state and local government programs won the award, out of 1400 applicants. CPSC was one of only 3 federal agencies to receive the award this year. CPSC received the award for its Fast-Track Recall program, initiated under my administration, which gets millions of dangerous products off the market faster than ever before.

If you have any questions, you can call me at (301) 504-0213, or Pamela Gilbert, CPSC Executive Director, at (301) 504-0550, ext. 2342.

Thank you again for your generous offer of support. A small increase in our budget can mean so much for the safety of American children and families.

Attachment(s)

CPSC NEEDS AN ADDITIONAL \$5 MILLION IN FY2000

CPSC is one of the best investments this Administration can make for the American public. The agency generates over \$150 million in savings to consumers every year for each \$1 million of its budget. However, the agency is struggling to keep up this good work because its budget is too small for its mission. CPSC needs a relatively modest one-time increase of approximately \$5 million to bump us up to another level of effectiveness for the American people.

FUNDING HISTORY

- * In 1981, the Reagan Administration cut CPSC's budget and staff by half.
- * Throughout the 1980's and early 1990's, CPSC's budget remained at the same low level.
- * In 1996, CPSC's budget was cut by over 6 percent. Since the agency did not cut any of its staff -- our most valuable asset -- we had to reduce financial support to programmatic activities by 28 percent.
- * Small budget increases since 1996 have restored *some* of the 1996 cuts.

However, CPSC's 1999 funding level still provides less purchasing power than the 1995 level, and half as much purchasing power as in 1979.

WHAT AN ADDITIONAL \$5 MILLION WILL BUY FOR THE AMERICAN PUBLIC

In their new study, "Reducing the Burden of Injury," the Institute of Medicine recommends that,

CPSC's capability for conducting product safety research be significantly strengthened to improve the agency's ability to assess product hazards and the need for corrective action.

CPSC needs research funding for the following research projects and tools, targeted at hazards to children and at reducing the nation's very high fire death rate:

- | | |
|--|--|
| \$700,000 | Improve smoke detector technology to make them more effective; |
| \$535,000 | Investigate causes of circuit breaker failures to improve the technology and prevent fires; |
| \$245,000 | Research feasibility of lifesaving fail-safe design technologies; |
| \$245,000 | Develop computer model to better evaluate choking hazards to children; |
| \$245,000 | Develop information on the number, type and use patterns of certain household products; and |
| \$200,000 | Purchase scanning electron microscope for CPSC laboratory. |
| CPSC needs the following additional funds: | |
| \$347,000 | Support for more recalls of products that pose substantial risk of death or serious injury. (e.g., Fisher-Price electric cars, Central Sprinklers) |
| \$2.5 million | Pay, benefits, rent increases |



United States
CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY COMMISSION
Washington, D.C. 20207

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MEMORANDUM

DATE: December 21, 1998

TO: Tom Freedman

FROM: Russ Rader

SUBJECT: Reductions in child-related deaths

Tom,

Please note, these numbers are the reductions in DEATHS to children from consumer products instead of INJURIES.

25 years ago, 6,500 children were killed by consumer products. Because of the work of the Consumer Product Safety Commission, that number has decreased to 2,900 today. That's a significant reduction, but it's still too many. So this year, I am announcing a budget increase of 7.4% to the CPSC and they will devote 60% of their budget to reducing injuries and deaths to children.

Toll-free hotline: 1-800-638-CPSC

Web site: <http://www.cpsc.gov>



U. S. CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20207

CPSC
Copy to BIR
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Done

Fax Message Cover Sheet

Date: December 8, 1999 Time: 3:00 p.m.

- ☐ Fax To (Name): Tom Freedman
- ☐ Fax Number: (202) 456-7431
- ☐ Voice Phone Number: (202) 456-5587

From: Office of the Executive Director

Name: Pamela Gilbert

Voice Phone Number: (301) 504-0550

Fax Number: (301) 504-0121

Subject: This is our appeal letter that was sent to Dan Mendelson today.

As we discussed, we don't think Dan will give us our full request. We very much appreciate any more help you can give us to get all the additional funds.

Thanks so much.

Number of Pages to Follow: 3



UNITED STATES
CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, DC 20207

December 8, 1999

Mr. Daniel Mendelson
Associate Director for Health and Personnel
Room 238, Eisenhower Executive Office Building
Office of Management and Budget
17th and Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20503

Dear Mr. Mendelson:

Thank you for meeting with me yesterday to discuss CPSC's Fiscal Year 2001 budget. This letter represents CPSC's formal appeal of our \$51 million passback. While we recognize that the passback is a \$2 million dollar increase over our 2000 appropriation, it is \$1.4 million less than we need to pay our current staff. It is also only \$500,000 more than the President requested for CPSC in 2000.

The OMB proposal would be a retrenchment for consumer product safety in the U.S. after 5 years of progress. Staff costs alone make up 85 percent of CPSC's budget. A \$1.4 million shortfall would force us to cut about 20 staff, which means significantly cutting back on the advances we have made. This budget would absolutely preclude any further progress to create a lasting legacy at the agency as this Administration comes to a close.

It is hard for me to understand why the Administration would want us to cut back on the good work we have been accomplishing for American families in the last 5 years. Ten years ago, the Washington Post printed an article calling the CPSC "the little agency that can't." At that time, the agency had been practically decimated by 8 years of budget and staff cuts under the Reagan Administration. In the past 5 years, I am proud to say that we have brought this Commission back to being a well-respected, can-do agency that gets concrete results for American children and families. For example,

- After decades in which few people knew who we were or what we did, CPSC is featured frequently on morning news and other network shows, often more than once a month, to publicize recalls and safety messages. CPSC has become a trusted household name for tens of millions of Americans.
- CPSC has received kudos from Congressional Republicans and Democrats alike.
- Ten years ago, CPSC issued 136 safety recalls each year. In the last 4 years, we have been averaging 350 a year.
- We assess 10 times more money in civil penalties as during the Reagan and Bush Administrations.

Mr. Daniel Mendelson

Page 2

- Our Hotline receives over twice as many calls from consumers each year as when I arrived – over 400,000 calls in 1999.
- A response to consumer complaints used to take as much as 48 days. Now it takes 48 hours.
- In 1998, CPSC was one of only 3 federal agencies to receive the prestigious Innovations in American Government Award from Harvard's Kennedy School of Government and the Ford Foundation.

We have achieved these accomplishments with the support of the Administration and annual budgets that kept pace with inflation. We would not be able to maintain this same level of activity under the passback level. For example, with 20 fewer staff, we might not be able to complete as many product recalls, which means dangerous products would stay on store shelves longer.

CPSC is a tiny agency that was cut in half in the Reagan Administration and never recovered. It is unfair to compare us with huge agencies, such as NIH, CDC, and HHS, that have so much more money and, therefore, more flexibility. Every dollar that is cut from CPSC's budget means a cut in our safety programs. There is no fat left to cut.

The passback from OMB recommended that we use some of our funds to initiate two new programs: modernize our product-testing laboratory and establish an applied research budget. These projects would help move consumer product safety significantly forward as we enter the new millennium. Unfortunately, it is impossible to begin either of these projects under the passback. We need additional funds to begin these important initiatives. This relatively small investment will give CPSC the capability to conduct product safety testing and research that is now either impossible for us to even attempt, or must be done in small increments, which is inefficient, and ultimately, more costly.

We request an additional \$1 million to begin the modernization of our 50-year-old product testing laboratory to eliminate gross inefficiencies in the ways that we currently use the facility. Our lab is housed in buildings that were built in the 1950's as a Nike missile-tracking site. The layout of these old buildings makes it very difficult to conduct our work. For example:

- We have 2 fire test facilities – one facility is at one end of the 8-acre site and the other is at the other end. Agency fire test personnel must travel back and forth to conduct different fire tests, depending on what testing is currently underway. Combining these facilities would dramatically improve our efficiency and would allow us to modernize the larger facility with more up-to-date equipment.
- Our lab space is so small that we often have to dismantle one test facility in order to build another facility, even if we know we will need the first facility again in the near future. For example, our baby walker test facility must be dismantled each time we need to conduct stability tests for other consumer products. Because we frequently test baby walkers throughout the year, our staff must constantly assemble and disassemble this test apparatus.

CPSC has jurisdiction over 15,000 different kinds of consumer products that are manufactured by some of the largest corporations in the world. In order to keep pace with

Mr. Daniel Mendelson

Page 3

rapidly-changing technologies and their potential risks, we need to have a testing laboratory that is well-equipped, efficient and up-to-date. This modernization plan would leave a meaningful legacy at the agency that will benefit consumers for decades to come.

To move product safety forward in the next millennium, we are requesting \$1 million to reestablish the agency's research program that was cut as a result of the Reagan budget cuts. This research budget was recommended by the Institute of Medicine in their recent report on injury in America. It will allow CPSC to contract out for research into significant consumer product safety problems that require substantial resources to understand and evaluate. Right now, we are simply unable to address these problems, and they languish, causing additional unnecessary deaths, injuries, and costs to society.

One leading candidate for research is a project to evaluate the relative effectiveness of different technologies for smoke alarms. The U.S. currently has one of the highest fire-related death rates among industrialized nations. Fortunately, fire deaths are now on the decline in this country. One of the reasons for this is the greater use of smoke alarms by consumers. Considerable controversy exists, however, regarding the effectiveness of the two technologies that are currently in use (photoelectric and ionization). In addition, current performance and installation standards for smoke alarms are based on 30-year-old tests.

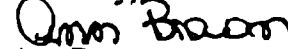
CPSC is the only single entity that has the expertise, mandate and independence to evaluate the different technologies, including emerging technologies, to settle the continuing controversy and provide better protection from all common fire types. We would use this research to modify current alarm standards. This work could help reduce even further the number of fire deaths and injuries that occur each year. If CPSC does not do this work, it will not get done.

Finally, I am very concerned that Congress will cut further into any budget that the Administration proposes next year, as they did with the 2000 budget. Therefore, a \$51 million request to Congress will likely give us a budget closer to \$50 million in the end. A \$50 million budget in 2001 would devastate the good progress we have made and the legacy we would like to leave.

In conclusion, I am asking for an additional \$1.4 million to allow us to continue our work at the same level with the same number of staff, \$1 million to modernize our lab, and \$1 million for a research budget. The total is another \$3.4 million, or \$54.4 million. This is a miniscule amount in terms of the federal budget, but it would mean a world of difference to CPSC, and more important, to the safety of American families and children.

Thank you for your consideration. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call me at (301) 504-0213, or our Executive Director, Pamela Gilbert, at (301) 504-0550.

Sincerely,


Ann Brown

Cc: Richard Turman, Jennifer Forshey



United States
CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY COMMISSION
Washington, D.C. 20207

CPSC
- SUTU

MEMORANDUM

DATE: December 18, 1998

TO: Tom Freedman

FROM: Kathleen Begala

SUBJECT: State of the Union material

Tom,

Here is some info on the reductions in injuries to children. We will get you the missing numbers on Monday.

25 years ago, _____ children were injured by consumer products. Because of the work of the Consumer Product Safety Commission, that number has decreased to _____. And this year, I am announcing a budget increase of 7.4% to the CPSC and they will devote 60% of their budget to reducing injuries to children.

25 years ago, 1,400 children were killed in their own homes by fire. Today, because of the work of the Consumer Product Safety Commission, that number has been reduced to 836, a significant reduction, but still too high. That is why I am announcing a 7.4% increase to CPSC to fund work on fires caused by upholstered furniture that could save 90 more lives each year.

In 1972, 216 children under the age of 5 died after swallowing household chemicals and medicines. Today, because of child resistant packaging laws enforced by the Consumer Product Safety Commission, fewer than 30 children die that way -- a 90% reduction. Today, I am announcing an increase in the CPSC's budget of 7.4% to continue their work in reducing deaths and injuries to children from consumer products.

In 1973, as many as 200 infants died annually from injuries associated with baby cribs. Federal safety standards implemented by the Consumer Product Safety Commission have reduced the number of these crib-related deaths to about 50 per year -- most in older, used cribs that do not meet current standards. Today, I am announcing an increase of 7.4% in CPSC's budget to continue its life-saving work of reducing injuries and deaths to children from all consumer products.

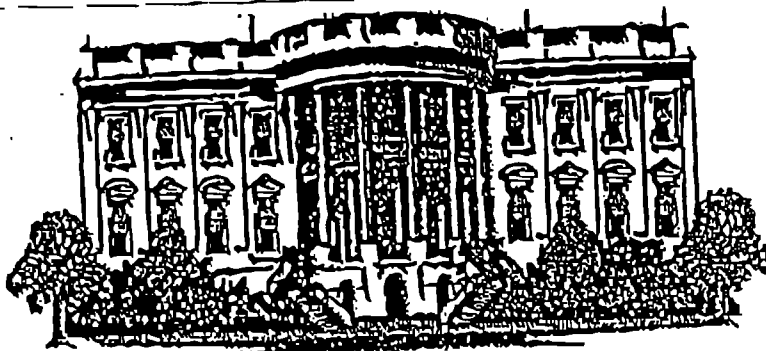
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THE WHITE HOUSE

Domestic Policy Council

DATE: 12/18/98

FACSIMILE FOR: EMIL PARKER Amel Kakoni

FAX: 401-5770 5-0851
PHONE:

FACSIMILE FROM: Andrea Kane

FAX: 202-456-7431
PHONE: 202-456-5573

NUMBER OF PAGES (INCLUDING COVER): 6

COMMENTS: _____



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Organization: _____

Voice: _____ Fax: 456-7431

Subject: _____

From: KATHLEEN BEGALA

Voice: (301) 504-0580 Ext. _____ Fax: (301) 504-0862 or (301) 504-0399

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Organization: _____

Voice: _____ Fax: 486-7431

Subject: _____

From: KATHLEEN BEGALA

Voice: (301) 504-0580 Ext. _____ Fax: (301) 504-0862 or (301) 504-0399

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