

# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

September 28, 2023

Brian Dodge  
President  
Retail Industry Leaders Association  
99 M Street SE, Suite 700  
Washington, DC 20003

Dear Mr. Brian Dodge,

We write to you today to urge prompt compliance with the safety standard required under the *Stop Tip-Overs of Unstable, Risky Dressers on Youth (STURDY) Act*, which passed into law in December 2022. The *STURDY Act* directed the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) to adopt a mandatory stability standard for new furniture to protect children from furniture tip-overs. As a result, CPSC recently adopted an industry and consumer-developed standard, ASTM F2057-23, as the mandatory standard with enforcement beginning earlier this month. As the lead sponsors of the *STURDY Act*, we urge Retail Industry Leaders Association members to expeditiously come into compliance with these new safety and stability requirements to ensure consumers can purchase the safest furniture possible now. Failing to do so puts children at risk of injury or death.

Furniture tip-overs have tragically impacted thousands of families. Tip-overs can occur when children pull, hang, or climb on drawers and the piece of furniture is not anchored to the wall. CPSC estimates an average of 22,500 emergency room injuries are treated each year when furniture tips over; 44 percent of these injuries are suffered by children. Since 2000, there have been more than 581 deaths associated with furniture, TVs, and appliance tip-overs; a child was the victim in 81 percent of these incidents. Efforts over the last decade to encourage caregivers to anchor furniture to the wall helped to lower fatal tip-over incidents but did not eliminate risk—more is needed.

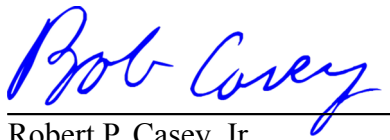
As a result of the *STURDY Act*, federal law now requires any furniture manufactured after September 1, 2023 to meet new stability and testing requirements; manufacturers must mimic real-world conditions when testing their furniture to ensure it can resist tipping over onto children. This law will have a tremendous impact on safety and will save lives. Manufacturers and retailers must take prompt action to comply with, and even exceed, the requirements set forth by the standard. Children's lives are at stake.

Manufacturers and retailers should act with urgency to ensure all furniture available in stores and online is compliant with the new safety and stability standard. This means prioritizing manufacturing of new, compliant furniture in lieu of selling non-compliant, stockpiled furniture. If any of your members do continue to sell non-compliant furniture that was manufactured on or prior to September 1, they should label it to ensure parents and caregivers understand the safety implications and can make safer choices for their families. We also encourage your members to provide consumers with guidance on how to properly anchor furniture to their walls. The burden

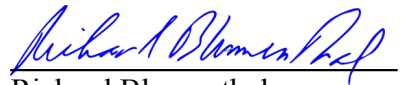
is on your retailers to be good corporate partners, come into compliance imminently, and to provide this information to consumers. Delay or hesitation will not only have civil and criminal repercussions for your members, but also may cost lives.

The *STURDY Act* brought parent advocates, consumer advocates, retailers, and manufacturers together with the shared goal of prioritizing children's safety. We expect that this cooperation will continue as the *STURDY Act* is implemented—there is nothing more important than protecting children.

Sincerely,



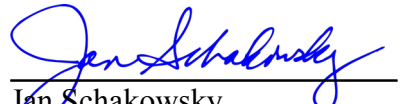
Robert P. Casey, Jr.  
United States Senator



Richard Blumenthal  
United States Senator



Amy Klobuchar  
United States Senator



Jan Schakowsky  
Member of Congress