

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20510

May 8, 2025

Director Russel Vought
Office of Management and Budget
1650 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20502

Dear Director Vought:

We write today on behalf of American consumers to express outrage that the Administration's draft budget reportedly includes plans to eliminate the bipartisan, independent Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) and absorb some of its functions and staff into a currently nonexistent staff division within the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). The CPSC develops and enforces commonsense product safety standards, facilitates recalls of unsafe products, and educates consumers and businesses on product hazards and best practices. Eliminating the agency will put the physical safety of all Americans at risk.

Congress created the CPSC almost 50 years ago to protect Americans from unreasonable risks of injury or death associated with consumer products. The Administration does not have the authority to eliminate a Commission established by Congress, as doing so would exceed its constitutional powers and undermine the principles of the legislative process.

The establishment of the CPSC as an independent five-member commission reflected the House Interstate and Foreign Commerce Committee's understanding that product safety should be "as far removed as possible from partisan influence."¹ Since its inception, the CPSC has played a vital role safeguarding American families, and in particular infants, children, and older Americans. Thanks to the CPSC's critical work, residential fires and fire-related deaths have decreased by over 40 percent.² Crib deaths and child poisonings have dropped by 80 percent.³ The Commission's work continues today, identifying emerging threats and protecting Americans from dangerous and banned imported products. With the rapid growth of e-commerce and imported consumer products, especially from countries with less stringent safety regulations, CPSC plays a critical role to prevent unsafe and counterfeit goods from entering the U.S. market unchecked. These protections for American families have led to a comprehensive set of product

¹ H.R. Rep. No. 92-1153, at 25 (1972) ("The Commission's decisions under this legislation will necessarily involve a careful meld of safety and economic considerations. This delicate balance, the committee believes, should be struck in a setting as far removed as possible from partisan influence.").

² Consumer Product Safety Commission. "CPSC Celebrates 50 Years of Making Consumer Safety our Mission. 15, March 2022, www.cpsc.gov/Newsroom/News-Releases/2022/CPSC-Celebrates-50-Years-of-Making-Consumer-Safety-our-Mission.

³ *Id.*

safety standards, recall processes, data collection, and public education, which cannot be transferred to a new agency by executive action.

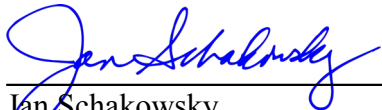
HHS lacks the statutory authority to carry out the CPSC's critical functions. Moreover, HHS already carries a broad mandate, overseeing food and drug regulation, communicable disease prevention, public health emergency preparation and responses, medical research, and the administration of Medicare, Medicaid, and the Children's Health Insurance Program. Yet, your Administration's proposed budget plans would reduce HHS's discretionary budget by one-third and eliminate 20,000 staff positions. Adding product safety to HHS's already vast and demanding mandate, all while slashing the department's budget and staff, would jeopardize the lives and physical safety of American families.

We strongly oppose any attempt to eliminate, defund, or weaken the CPSC and demand that you immediately roll back any efforts to dissolve the agency. Americans rightfully expect that the products they bring into their home are safe, and only the CPSC has the authority and expertise to ensure that expectation is met. The CPSC's continued existence is essential to protecting Americans from preventable injury and death. Without the dedicated oversight of the CPSC, American families, especially children, will be left vulnerable in their own homes.

Sincerely,



Richard Blumenthal
United States Senator



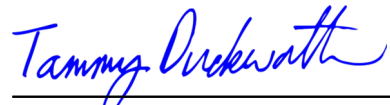
Jan Schakowsky
Member of Congress



Kevin Mullin
Member of Congress



Amy Klobuchar
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator



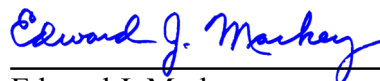
Kirsten Gillibrand
United States Senator



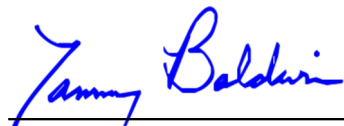
Jeffrey A. Merkley
United States Senator



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Edward J. Markey
United States Senator



Tammy Baldwin
United States Senator



Eleanor Holmes Norton
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Kim Schrier, M.D.
Member of Congress



Julia Brownley
Member of Congress



Al Green
Member of Congress



Danny K. Davis
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Frederica S. Wilson
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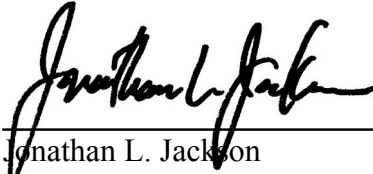
Emanuel Cleaver, II
Member of Congress



Paul D. Tonko
Member of Congress



Chris Van Hollen
United States Senator



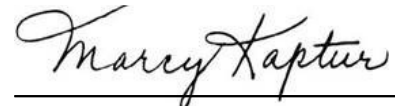
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Member of Congress



Rick Larsen
Member of Congress



Marcy Kaptur
Member of Congress



Pramila Jayapal
Member of Congress



Lori Trahan
Member of Congress



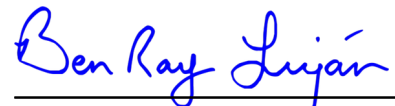
Jacky Rosen
U.S. Senator



Tim Kaine
United States Senator



Kathy Castor
Member of Congress



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Ritchie Torres
Member of Congress



Diana DeGette
Member of Congress



Bernard Sanders
United States Senator



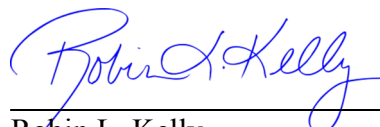
Rashida Tlaib
Member of Congress



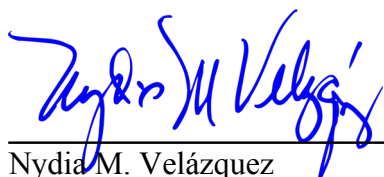
Troy A. Carter, Sr.
Member of Congress



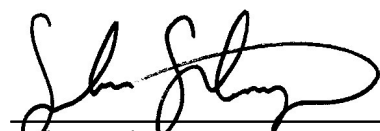
Darren Soto
Member of Congress



Robin L. Kelly
Member of Congress



Nydia M. Velázquez
Member of Congress



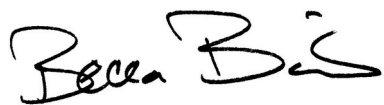
Suhas Subramanyam
Member of Congress



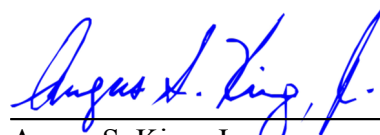
Andre Carson
Member of Congress



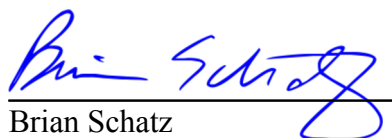
Peter Welch
United States Senator



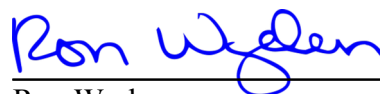
Becca Balint
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Angus S. King, Jr.
United States Senator



Brian Schatz
United States Senator



Ron Wyden
United States Senator



Mazie K. Hirono
United States Senator



J. Luis Correa
Member of Congress



Jack Reed
United States Senator



Cory A. Booker
United States Senator



Elizabeth Warren
United States Senator



Martin Heinrich
United States Senator

Cc: Hon. Robert F. Kennedy, Jr., Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services
Hon. Peter A. Feldman, Acting Chairman, Consumer Product Safety Commission
Hon. Alexander Hoehn-Saric, Commissioner, Consumer Product Safety Commission
Hon. Richard Trumka, Commissioner, Consumer Product Safety Commission
Hon. Mary T. Boyle, Commissioner, Consumer Product Safety Commission
Hon. Douglas Dziak, Commissioner, Consumer Product Safety Commission