



June 15, 2017

Honorable Linda B. Rosenthal
New York State Assembly
230 West 72nd Street Suite 2F
New York, NY 10023

Honorable José M. Serrano
New York State Senate
1916 Park Avenue Suite 202
New York, NY 10037

Dear Assemblywoman Rosenthal and Senator Serrano,

We thank you for introducing A5284-B / S3667 that would require the anchoring of furniture and electronics in child day care centers, public institutions for children and similar facilities. This issue is important because parents who send their children to daycare should feel comfortable that their child will be safe. We are so encouraged that it has passed in the Assembly.

Safe Kids Worldwide is a grassroots organization consisting of 418 collations including Safe Kids New York and 10 coalitions across the state. Here at Safe Kids, we are dedicated to reducing preventable injuries and deaths in children up to age 19 by engaging in awareness and advocacy on road injuries, youth sports related injuries and those sustained in the home, including medication poisoning, window falls and tipovers involving furniture and large televisions. We have been working on the tipover risk for the past four years.

Every two weeks, a child dies in a furniture tip-over accident and about two-thirds of fatalities involve toddlers. Anchoring furniture significantly reduces the chance of injury or death. We understand that the bill was inspired, in part, by the recall of 29 million IKEA Malm dressers which could tipover. The dressers resulted in the death of at least 3 children. These tragic stories involve children doing things that children that age normally do--children are curious and will explore. The lack of properly anchored furniture can lead to a young child's life being cut short or serious injury.

We appreciate that the bill covers day care centers and similar places. Perhaps this approach—and a law behind it—will encourage parents to anchor similar furniture and televisions in their home. We thank you for your leadership on this issue—the work of creative, proactive state legislators like you is more important now than ever. We stand ready to support passage of this legislation. Please feel free to contact me at 516.881.7021, rennis@northwell.edu.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rosemarie Ennis".

Rosemarie Ennis
Director
Safe Kids New York

