



March 29, 2019

Honorable Jan Schakowsky
U.S. House of Representatives
2367 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congresswoman Schakowsky:

Thank you for your leadership in introducing the Stop Tip-overs of Unstable, Risky Dressers on Youth (STURDY) Act. There have been too many tragedies caused by furniture falling on kids. We know that furniture can be manufactured in a way that significantly reduces this risk. We favor this legislation which would require the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) to set a mandatory furniture standard on dressers.

One of the tragedies involved 2-year-old Jozef Dudek of Buena Park, California. His mother placed him in his crib for a nap, but instead he started to play and was crushed by an IKEA MALM dresser in May 2017.¹ Then, after a Minnesota child became the eighth to die in a furniture tip-over involving a MALM dresser, the manufacturer reissued its recall of 17.3 million MALM dressers.² According to a *Consumer Reports* article citing CPSC data, "The tip-over problem is epidemic: Someone in the U.S. is injured every 17 minutes by a furniture, television, or appliance tip-over."³

Safe Kids Worldwide is a 31-year-old grassroots organization with more than 417 coalitions across the country dedicated to preventing unintentional child injuries from car crashes, fires, CO poisoning and consumer safety issues such as furniture tip-overs. Unintentional injuries are the number one cause of death of U.S. children 19 and under. This is a little known but tragic fact. These injuries happen because children are instinctively curious and are always exploring. Safe Kids coalition members have developed an expertise in understanding how a child's adventurous nature can put them at risk and create a challenge for parents. Furniture tip-overs are an example of such a preventable injury risk.

The STURDY Act would require the CPSC to set a mandatory standard for dressers to prevent tip-overs, unless the agency determines that the American Society for Testing Materials (ASTM) has devised a voluntary standard to protect kids which would be substantially accepted by furniture manufacturers.

We thank you for introducing this important bill and we stand ready to support you in your work. You are a champion in enhancing child safety in our nation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "AJ Green".

Anthony Green
Chief Advocacy and Network Officer
Safe Kids Worldwide

Contact: Anthony Green, Chief Advocacy and Network Officer, Safe Kids Worldwide, 202.662.0606, agreen@safekids.org

¹ Domonoske C. (2017, October 19). After Ikea Dresser Recall, Another Toddler Reportedly Died In Tip-Over. *National Public Radio*. Available at: <https://www.npr.org/sections/thetwo-way/2017/10/19/558850616/after-ikea-dresser-recall-another-toddler-reportedly-died-in-tip-over>.

² Consumer Product Safety Commission. (2017, November 21). "IKEA Reannounces Recall of MALM and Other Models of Chests and Dressers Due to Serious Tip-Over Hazard; 8th Child Fatality Reported; Consumers Urged to Choose Between Refund or Repair." Available at: <https://www.cpsc.gov/Recalls/2018/IKEA-Reannounces-Recall-of-MALM-and-Other-Models-of-Chests-and-Dressers-Due-to-Serious-Tip-over-Hazard>.

³ Peachman R. (2018, March 22). Furniture Tip-Overs: A Hidden Hazard in Your Home. *Consumer Reports*. Available at: <https://www.consumerreports.org/furniture/furniture-tip-overs-hidden-hazard-in-your-home/>.