



November 21, 2019

The Honorable Brandon Todd
Council of the District of Columbia
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Suite 105
Washington, DC 20004

Dear Councilmember Todd:

We write in anticipation of a public hearing on December 18, 2019, to express our support for your legislation, the Window Blind Safety Notification Act of 2019. This bill would require hospitals, health care facilities and birthing centers in the District of Columbia to distribute information on the hazards posed by corded window blinds to parents expecting a child. During one term on the Council, your work has already made you a hero in child safety.

Corded window blinds pose a serious hazard to young children, but this dangerous threat is not well known to many new parents. According to the Consumer Product Safety Commission, roughly one child dies every month from strangulation by corded window coverings.¹

The strangulations that cause most window covering related deaths happen quickly, often silently. Research published in *Pediatrics* shows that most of the children killed by window coverings are toddlers, curious by nature and unable to perceive this hidden danger.² Raising awareness among new parents about this hazard, as mandated by this bill, is critical to preventing these tragedies.

A 2018 update to the ANSI voluntary standard for window coverings made cordless models the standard for stock coverings sold in retail settings today. However, this update does not affect custom-order coverings and countless corded window blinds remain in homes throughout the country. Further, families who rent often cannot choose the window coverings installed in their home, making the safety education and awareness that would be provided by this bill even more important.

We thank you for your leadership in introducing the Window Blind Safety Notification Act and stand ready to support its passage.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Torine Creppy". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Torine Creppy
President
Safe Kids Worldwide

¹ Consumer Product Safety Commission. *Are Your Window Coverings Safe?* Available at: <https://www.cpsc.gov/s3fs-public/5009aWindowCoveringsSafetyAlert6.pdf>

² Onders, B; Kim, EH; Chounthirath T; Hodges, NL; Smith, GA. (2018). Pediatric Injuries Related to Window Blinds, Shades, and Cords. *Pediatrics*, Vol. 141 (Issue 1). Available at: <https://pediatrics.aappublications.org/content/141/1/e20172359>