



November 17, 2020

The Honorable Roger Wicker
Senate Committee on Commerce,
Science and Transportation
555 Dirksen Senate Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Maria Cantwell
Senate Committee on Commerce,
Science and Transportation
511 Hart Senate Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Wicker and Ranking Member Cantwell:

We write together as 43 Safe Kids coalitions and Safe Kids Worldwide in support of the Consumer Product Safety Inspection Enhancement Act (H.R.8134), bipartisan legislation aiming to remove dangerous, counterfeit products from the marketplace—especially the online marketplace and involving products in a child’s environment. The House passed the bill and we hope it can progress before Congress adjourns.

We know that many of the fake products sold online enter the U.S. through our ports. To counter this, H.R.8134 would give the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) and Customs and Border Protection (CBP) additional powers and resources to target, identify and assess dangerous, counterfeit products likely to be sold online. By enhancing CPSC capacity, this bill will build on the successful CPSC/CBP partnership that is seizing defective and counterfeit goods at American ports. We hope to see H.R.8134 move forward in the Senate so it can become law.

Our interest was spurred after Safe Kids coalitions detected counterfeit car seats as they conducted child passenger safety car seat inspections. In February 2019, counterfeit car seats were identified in Idaho at the St. Luke’s Children’s Hospital.¹ A fake car seat is inherently dangerous. An investigative report on CNN showed this to be the case. Counterfeit versions of the Doona "4 in 1 Baby Car Seat and Stroller" were identified online as counterfeit and CNN retained the respected University of Michigan Transportation Research Institute to conduct a 30-mph crash test on the fake product. The counterfeit car seat failed to meet basic federal standards and broke into pieces, twisting the test dummy’s body. Referring to the test, a national expert said that such a fake car seat could put a child in “grave danger.” The authentic Doona car seat passed the same test and held the dummy in place.²

The fast-paced growth of the online marketplace has been accelerated by the COVID-19 pandemic because shopping online is so essential. This rapid growth has broadened the avenue for the sale of fake products, and we must put effective remedies in place.

Safe Kids is a grass roots network of over 400 coalitions nationwide, dedicated to the prevention of unintentional injuries among kids 19 and under, the number one killer of children in the U.S. An example of an unintentional injury involves a child’s exposure to defective products that may have been recalled or may be counterfeit such as the car seat discussed above. Removing fake products from online markets will help us prevent serious, *preventable* child injuries. We hope the Committee will consider H.R.8134.

Sincerely,

Safe Kids Alabama
Safe Kids Pima County, AZ
Safe Kids Central California
Safe Kids Greater Sacramento, CA
Safe Kids Santa Clara/San Mateo, CA
Safe Kids California
Safe Kids Los Angeles West, CA
Safe Kids Larimer County, CO
Safe Kids Colorado Springs, CO
Safe Kids District of Columbia
Safe Kids Delaware
Safe Kids Hawai'i
Safe Kids Greater Des Moines, IA
Safe Kids Iowa
Safe Kids Indiana
Safe Kids Kansas
Safe Kids Cowley County, KS
Safe Kids Louisiana
Safe Kids Montana
Safe Kids Missoula, MT
Safe Kids Northeast Missouri
Safe Kids North Carolina

Safe Kids Grand Forks, ND
Safe Kids Bismarck-Mandan, ND
Safe Kids Fargo-Moorhead, ND
Safe Kids Minot, ND
Safe Kids New Jersey
Safe Kids Washoe County, NV
Safe Kids New York State
Safe Kids Cleveland, OH
Safe Kids Summit County, OH
Safe Kids Mahoning Valley, OH
Safe Kids Ohio
Safe Kids Oklahoma
Safe Kids Allegheny County, PA
Safe Kids Rhode Island
Safe Kids Tennessee
Safe Kids Mid-South, TN
Safe Kids Utah County, UT
Safe Kids Virginia
Safe Kids Wisconsin
Safe Kids Southeast Wisconsin
Safe Kids Marathon County, WI
Safe Kids Worldwide

Contact: Anthony Green, Safe Kids Worldwide, 202.662.0606, agreen@safekids.org

¹ Boydston, M. (2019, February 6). Boise Hospital Warns of Knock-Off Car Seats: 'There's No Way A Child Would Survive a Crash in a Seat Like This'. *KTVB-7*. Available at: <https://www.ktvb.com/article/news/health/boise-hospital-warns-of-knock-off-car-seats-theres-no-way-a-child-would-survive-a-crash-in-a-seat-like-this/277-c1db11e9-0489-44bb-85f2-a2b7bd362080>

² Boykoff, P; Sebastian, C. (2019, December 23). Fake and Dangerous Kids Products Are Turning Up For Sale on Amazon. *CNN Business*. Available at: <https://www.cnn.com/2019/12/20/tech/amazon-fake-kids-products/index.html>