



August 11, 2020

The Honorable Hank Johnson
House Subcommittee on Courts, Intellectual
Property and the Internet
2240 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Martha Roby
House Subcommittee on Courts, Intellectual
Property and the Internet
504 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Johnson and Ranking Member Roby:

We join together as 39 Safe Kids coalitions in support of H.R.6058, the Stopping Harmful Offers on Platforms by Screening Against Fakes in E-Commerce (SHOP SAFE) Act. This bipartisan bill would help protect consumers by curbing the online sales of potentially dangerous counterfeit products, many of which can be found in a child’s environment. The COVID-19 pandemic and our increasing dependence on e-commerce has amplified the need to rid online marketplaces of these fakes. Thank you for your leadership on this issue.

SHOP SAFE addresses this issue by incentivizing platforms to follow best practices for screening sellers and goods, penalizing repeat offenders, and better ensuring the accuracy of information available to their consumers.

The fast-paced growth of the online marketplace—expanding so rapidly that it has overrun the capacity to regulate it—has provided a new avenue for the sale of fake products. And this avenue has become an easy street for selling fake, sometimes hazardous products. A major issue is the lack of accountability placed on online marketplaces to police their platforms and especially their third-party sellers. This is especially important given that in the second fiscal quarter of 2019, third-party sellers accounted for 54 percent of units sold on Amazon.¹

Here’s one especially alarming example. A child restraint system is among the most important products a parent will ever buy, crucial in keeping a child safe during a car crash. However, fake car seats have infiltrated the U.S. marketplace. Recently, CNN investigated the danger a counterfeit car seat can pose. They purchased a counterfeiter’s copy of the popular Doona “4 in 1 Baby car seat and Stroller” and engaged the University of Michigan Transportation Research Institute to perform a 30-mph crash test on it. In that test, the fake car seat broke into pieces, failing to meet even the most basic of safety standards set by US regulators. Dr. Alisa Baer, a pediatrician and a certified child passenger safety instructor, saw the results and said the fake seat would put a child in “grave danger.”² The genuine Doona endured the test successfully.

Safe Kids is a grass roots network of more than 400 coalitions across the country. Our mission is to prevent unintentional injuries among kids 19 and under, the number one killer of children in the U.S. Our 33-year engagement with child passenger safety is at the core of our expertise. By removing fake products from online markets, we'll be able to prevent serious, *preventable* injuries involving our kids. We applaud you for your leadership and the bipartisan support for this important piece of legislation.

Sincerely,

Safe Kids Alabama	Safe Kids Bismarck-Mandan
Safe Kids California	Safe Kids Fargo-Moorhead
Safe Kids Central California	Safe Kids New Jersey
Safe Kids Greater Sacramento	Safe Kids Washoe County
Safe Kids Los Angeles West	Safe Kids New York State
Safe Kids Santa Clara	Safe Kids Ohio
Safe Kids Larimer County	Safe Kids Cleveland
Safe Kids District of Columbia	Safe Kids Mahoning Valley
Safe Kids Delaware	Safe Kids Summit County
Safe Kids Hawai'i	Safe Kids Oklahoma
Safe Kids Iowa	Safe Kids Allegheny County
Safe Kids Greater Des Moines	Safe Kids Rhode Island
Safe Kids Indiana	Safe Kids Tennessee
Safe Kids Kansas	Safe Kids Mid-South
Safe Kids Cowley County	Safe Kids Virginia
Safe Kids Louisiana	Safe Kids Wisconsin
Safe Kids Montana	Safe Kids Marathon County
Safe Kids Missoula	Safe Kids Southeast Wisconsin
Safe Kids North Carolina	Safe Kids Worldwide
Safe Kids Grand Forks	

Contact: Anthony Green | 202.615.4300 | agreen@safekids.org

Joshua Oyos, a Safe Kids Intern and student at NYU Abu Dhabi performed research in support of this letter of support.

¹ Suthivarakom, G. (2020, February 11). Welcome to the Era of Fake Products. *The New York Times*. Available at: <https://www.nytimes.com/wirecutter/blog/amazon-counterfeit-fake-products/>

² Boykoff, P; Sebastian, C. CNN Business. 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>.