



April 26, 2021

U.S. Senate Committee on Commerce,  
Science, and Transportation  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator:

Consumer Reports (CR), the independent, nonprofit, nonpartisan organization, urges you to **support the S. 1259, the Safe Cribs Act, and vote to advance the bill to the Senate floor.** This bill would help parents and caregivers protect their babies from getting hurt or killed by crib bumper products that are not safe for infant sleep.

S. 1259 would ban crib bumper pads as a hazardous product under section 8 of the Consumer Product Safety Act (15 U.S.C. 2057). Crib bumpers are associated with at least 113 product-related deaths reported to the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC).<sup>1</sup> CR testified before the House Energy and Commerce Committee in June 2019 in support of the House version of this measure,<sup>2</sup> and now urges your support of S. 1259.

Crib bumpers directly conflict with safe sleep recommendations established by the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP).<sup>3</sup> These guidelines, developed through a rigorous, multi-year process to evaluate the state of the medical evidence, advise that babies should be placed to bed on a firm, flat surface in their own space, with no extra bedding.

Safe sleep messages should be clear and consistent for parents and caregivers. Based on AAP safe sleep recommendations, additional research we outline below, and the reported infant deaths, crib bumpers are not safe for infant sleep, and they should not be for sale. As long as these products remain on store shelves and online, well-meaning parents and caregivers may unwittingly put countless infants at risk. Today, you have the opportunity to help protect these infants.

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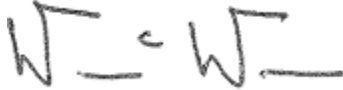
<sup>1</sup> CPSC, “Notice of Proposed Rulemaking: Safety Standard for Crib Bumpers/Liners” (April 3, 2020) (online at: [govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-2020-04-03/pdf/2020-06142.pdf](https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-2020-04-03/pdf/2020-06142.pdf)).

<sup>2</sup> CR, “Written Testimony of William Wallace, Manager, Home and Safety Policy, U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Energy and Commerce, Subcommittee on Consumer Protection and Commerce” (June 13, 2019) (online at: [docs.house.gov/meetings/IF/IF17/20190613/109635/HHRG-116-IF17-Wstate-WallaceW-20190613.pdf](https://docs.house.gov/meetings/IF/IF17/20190613/109635/HHRG-116-IF17-Wstate-WallaceW-20190613.pdf)).

<sup>3</sup> AAP Task Force on Sudden Infant Death Syndrome, SIDS and Other Sleep-Related Infant Deaths: Updated 2016 Recommendations for a Safe Infant Sleeping Environment, *Pediatrics*, 2016;138(5):e20162938, October 24, 2016 (online at: [pediatrics.aappublications.org/content/pediatrics/early/2016/10/20/peds.2016-2938.full.pdf](https://pediatrics.aappublications.org/content/pediatrics/early/2016/10/20/peds.2016-2938.full.pdf)).

Accordingly, we urge you to **support S. 1259 and vote to advance the bill to the Senate floor without delay.** We look forward to working together to ensure a safe sleep environment for infants and a safe marketplace for all consumers.

Sincerely,



William Wallace  
Manager, Safety Policy



Oriene Shin  
Policy Counsel

*Please see below for additional information:*

- The risks to infants from crib bumper pads and similar products are serious. CR and our partner organizations—including AAP, Consumer Federation of America, and Kids In Danger—have warned parents and caregivers for almost a decade against using crib bumper pads. According to the AAP, crib bumper pads for infants “have been implicated as a factor contributing to deaths from suffocation, entrapment, and strangulation.”<sup>4</sup>
- In January 2020, CR queried its consumer research panel of 1,000 people, which included 248 self-identified parents, and asked the parents how they understood crib bumpers in the context of the “bare is best” message. What we found was that while 73% of the parents believed “bare is best” for infant sleep, only 55% of the parents believed that crib bumpers are unsafe to use for infant cribs. This stark contrast in responses – nearly a 20% difference – demonstrates the confusion that crib bumpers create for parents, since the use of crib bumpers inherently conflicts with “bare is best.”
- In November 2016, several CPSC commissioners released a joint policy statement that there is a “clear risk of injury or death associated with padded crib bumpers” and that parents and caregivers should not use them.<sup>5</sup> While these commissioners recognized the danger of the products, the CPSC as an agency has failed to prohibit bumper pads and similar products,<sup>6</sup> leaving it necessary for Congress to act.

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<sup>4</sup> *Supra* note 3.

<sup>5</sup> Joint statement of CPSC Chairman Kaye and Commissioners Adler, Robinson, and Mohorovic recommending parents and caregivers not use padded crib bumpers (Nov. 3, 2016) (online at: [www.cpsc.gov/s3fs-public/Joint Statement on Padded Crib Bumpers FINAL 11.3.16.pdf](http://www.cpsc.gov/s3fs-public/Joint_Statement_on_Padded_Crib_Bumpers_FINAL_11.3.16.pdf)).

<sup>6</sup> Washington Post, “Dozens of infant deaths have been tied to a popular baby product. But regulators are too paralyzed to act” (Nov. 23, 2019) (online at: [www.washingtonpost.com/business/economy/dozens-of-infant-deaths-have-been-tied-to-a-popular-baby-product-but-regulators-are-too-paralyzed-to-act/2019/11/23/c6348d68-f5a1-11e9-a285-882a8e386a96\\_story.html](https://www.washingtonpost.com/business/economy/dozens-of-infant-deaths-have-been-tied-to-a-popular-baby-product-but-regulators-are-too-paralyzed-to-act/2019/11/23/c6348d68-f5a1-11e9-a285-882a8e386a96_story.html)).