



July 19, 2024

The Honorable Gus Bilirakis, Chair
The Honorable Jan Schakowsky, Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Innovation, Data, and Commerce
Committee on Energy and Commerce
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chair Bilirakis and Ranking Member Schakowsky:

Consumer Reports (CR), the independent, non-profit, nonpartisan member organization, writes regarding the July 23, 2024, subcommittee hearing on “The Fiscal Year 2025 Consumer Product Safety Commission Budget.” We ask that this letter be included in the hearing record.

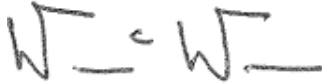
CR strongly supports the CPSC’s work to protect the public from unreasonable risks of injury or death associated with over 15,000 different types of consumer products, including children’s products. The scope of this agency’s mission is enormous: for example, in FY 2023, the CPSC negotiated and implemented 308 voluntary recalls of 97 million consumer product units, conducted more than 66,000 import examinations at U.S. ports of entry, and handled more than 3,800 in-depth investigations of product safety incidents. However, the agency’s current funding level forces it to operate under severe resource constraints and leaves consumers and their families at risk from both longstanding product hazards and newly emerging ones.

The CPSC’s current budget of \$150.975 million is among the smallest of the federal health and safety regulatory agencies and falls far short of the agency’s FY 2025 funding request of \$183.05 million. In 2021, the agency received additional one-time funding through the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), which enabled the agency to expand its presence and strengthen its ability to inspect imported consumer products at the ports of entry, in collaboration with U.S. Customs and Border Protection. This infusion of funding allowed for more robust inspection of products entering the country, resulting in thousands of unsafe products being halted at the border before they could harm Americans. Unfortunately, this funding is scheduled to be exhausted by the end of FY 2025. If the CPSC continues to be underfunded, the agency will be severely hindered in its critical safety efforts, including in its work to stop unsafe products at the border. Ultimately, the CPSC requires a budget commensurate with its mission and the vast scale of our country.

Consumer Reports appreciates the dutiful and sensible approach to various challenges taken by the CPSC’s leaders in recent years, and we consider the agency’s work indispensable. We urge every member of the Subcommittee to likewise support the agency’s work and press for

the agency to receive the resources it needs to keep the public safe and prevent product-related deaths and injuries. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



William Wallace
Associate Director, Safety Policy



Gabe Knight
Safety Policy Analyst



Oriene Shin
Policy Counsel

cc: Members of the Subcommittee on Innovation, Data, and Commerce