



**Written Comments of Consumer Reports to the
U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission on:
“Agenda and Priorities FY 2026 and/or 2027”
Presented by Gabe Knight, Senior Policy Analyst**

Submitted to the Office of the Secretary via *cpsc-os@cpsc.gov*
July 9, 2025

Consumer Reports (CR), the independent, nonprofit, and nonpartisan member organization,¹ welcomes the chance to submit comments on the agenda and priorities of the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) for fiscal years 2026 and 2027.

For almost 90 years, improving product safety has been central to CR’s mission. We assess safety risks, investigate their impact on consumers, and inform the public and the CPSC when we identify product hazards—all on a data-driven basis. We push the agency to take strong action to keep the public safe from unreasonable risks posed by consumer products, and defend the agency’s authority to carry out its duty, including through promulgating mandatory safety standards, holding companies accountable for wrongdoing, and warning the public about potential safety hazards.

Consumers depend on the CPSC to create and enforce data-driven safety rules, stop dangerous imported products at U.S. ports of entry, and warn them when there is a hazardous product on the market, or already in their homes, that could injure or kill them. To continue serving the public as it has for decades, the CPSC must remain an independent watchdog that puts consumers and their safety first, as Congress intended when it created the agency more than 50 years ago. Consumer Reports is deeply concerned about ongoing efforts to curtail the agency’s independence and the integrity of the Commission’s bipartisan leadership. We also strongly oppose all attempts to eliminate the agency and put the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services in charge of overseeing the safety of more than 15,000 types of consumer products.² Such efforts directly conflict with federal law that established the agency and its structure, and hinder the agency’s ability to protect consumers and their families, putting them at greater risk of injury and death from unsafe products.

¹ Founded in 1936, Consumer Reports (CR) is an independent, nonprofit, and nonpartisan organization that works with consumers to create a fair and just marketplace. Known for its rigorous testing and ratings of products, CR advocates for laws and company practices that put consumers first. CR is dedicated to amplifying the voices of consumers to promote safety, digital rights, financial fairness, and sustainability. The organization surveys millions of Americans every year, reports extensively on the challenges and opportunities for today’s consumers, and provides ad-free content and tools to more than five million members across the U.S.

² CR, “159 Advocates Send Letter Opposing Plan to Eliminate the CPSC” (May 8, 2025) (online at: www.advocacy.consumerreports.org/press_release/159-advocates-send-letter-opposing-plan-to-eliminate-the-cpsc/)

The CPSC has long been the independent agency that Americans depend on to keep themselves and their families safe from persistent and emerging product hazards. This agency has the institutional authority, expertise, and experience necessary to prevent and respond to marketplace harms. Attempts to dramatically restructure the CPSC, reduce the agency's workforce, and decrease funding for its life-saving operations could result in less stringent enforcement of existing laws, fewer new safety standards that take longer to promulgate, and diminished marketplace oversight and accountability. In a rapidly evolving marketplace, consumers deserve the certainty of knowing that the work of the independent federal agency that Congress has entrusted for decades to advance product safety, save lives, and prevent injuries will continue, unimpeded.

In our comments, we address a few of the many ways the CPSC can protect the public.

Remain at the forefront of the fight against dangerous, illegal, and counterfeit consumer products at U.S. ports of entry

We applaud the CPSC's Office of Import Surveillance (EXIS) for its port surveillance work. CPSC's port inspectors are the first line of defense in keeping hazardous goods manufactured overseas out of the country, before they can come into people's homes. CR is also glad to see *de minimis* shipments being restricted, which will help stem the flow of hazardous overseas shipments into the country. We understand that the CPSC has budgeted in FY25 for 57 EXIS full-time equivalent staff, which is good to see. Ideally this number should be increased, though we understand that given current funding realities, the CPSC is forced to make difficult decisions on how to allocate limited resources.

The agency also plays an indispensable leadership role in international engagement, and through its work gains an invaluable understanding of how the global market functions. Through its work with international partners such as foreign government agencies, industry associations, and other foreign organizations engaged in consumer product safety work, the CPSC works to improve manufacturing and regulatory coordination, and encourage best practices that will bolster consumer protections. We encourage the CPSC to continue its engagement, public information sharing, and cooperation with international consumer product safety organizations to find ways to align policies and safety requirements to address ongoing and emerging challenges.

Additionally, as the Commission is well aware, the preventable toll of fires, injuries, and deaths linked to lithium-ion batteries in electric bicycles and other micromobility products continues to rise, and many of these products arrive in the U.S. from overseas. Although a bipartisan bill exists to address this serious hazard—which is supported by fire chief and fire fighter groups, the bike industry, and numerous consumer and health organizations, including CR—Congress has yet to pass the legislation. Concerningly, the agency's proposed safety standard for lithium-ion batteries used in micromobility products, as presented in April 2025, has not yet been published in the Federal Register. In the absence of an advancing legislative solution or an agency rule, it is foreseeable that deaths, injuries, and property damage linked to faulty lithium-ion batteries in micromobility devices will persist. Accordingly, we strongly urge the Commission to continue to push for the publication of its proposed mandatory standard.

Focus on hazards that put infants and toddlers at serious risk, and finalize strong product safety rules that are underway

Infants and toddlers are among our most vulnerable, and accordingly, we support the CPSC's work to issue strong safety standards under Section 104 of the Consumer Product Safety Improvement Act (CPSIA). It is paramount that the agency ensures that only those durable infant and toddler products that meet strong safety standards and align with expert medical recommendations are for sale in the marketplace. We urge the agency to remain vigilant and to address any potential safety hazards found in infant or toddler products, new or old, including those with weak voluntary standards, as well as those products with voluntary standards currently under development. We thank the agency for finalizing strong rules for nursing pillows and infant support cushions, and encourage the agency to work expeditiously to finalize strong rules or bans of infant neck floats, water bead toys, and infant walkers.

Water Beads

While the ASTM toy standard for water beads continues to progress, we are concerned at the slow pace. Further, we continue to find water beads that appear attractive to children for sale, even by companies that have voluntarily pledged to remove the products for sale from their stores and websites. The CPSC should finalize a strong rule or ban on water bead toys.

Infant Neck Floats

We commend CPSC staff for developing performance requirements and improved warning labels for infant neck floats, and urge the Commission to finalize its draft rule expeditiously; alternatively, due to the severe risks posed by neck floats, CR would also support action by either the CPSC or Congress that would ban the product category entirely.

Infant Walkers

For over 30 years, CPSC staff has participated in the voluntary standards process to address safety hazards associated with infant walkers. We appreciate the agency's longtime interest in the subject and assistance to the voluntary standards group; however, given the serious safety and developmental risks associated with these products, and the American Academy of Pediatrics' guidance that infant walkers should never be used,³ we encourage the CPSC to do everything in its power to push for an infant walker ban, as Canada has implemented, or otherwise use the tools at its disposal to better protect families. The CPSC should also consider categorizing walkers that do not meet the current ASTM standard as a substantial product hazard.

³ CR, "Baby Walkers Have Caused Injuries and Deaths—So Why Are They Banned in Canada But Not in the U.S.?" (Oct. 10, 2024) (online at: www.consumerreports.org/product-safety/baby-walkers-unsafe-still-sold-in-us-a3111814380/); Healthychildren.org, "Baby Walkers: A Dangerous Choice" (Updated Aug. 15, 2022) (online at: www.healthychildren.org/English/safety-prevention/at-home/Pages/baby-walkers-a-dangerous-choice.aspx)

Enforce rules on clothing storage units, high-powered magnets, and button and coin cell batteries

We thank the Commission for enforcing strong rules for clothing storage units (CSUs), small high-powered magnets, and button and coin cell batteries. The CPSC's safety standards are working, but ongoing recalls demonstrate that continued enforcement is necessary to rid the market of hazardous products.

Clothing Storage Units

Since the STURDY Act went into effect over a year and a half ago, the agency has secured recalls or issued unilateral safety warnings for a number of CSUs found to be in violation of federal stability standards. We applaud the Commission's ongoing work, but have concerns that retailers and online marketplaces are doing too little to ensure that products they are making available for sale adhere to federal regulations. We encourage the CPSC to continue educating the public on the deadly risks associated with furniture tip-overs.

High-Powered Magnets

CR's product safety early warning system flagged 10 incidents on *saferproducts.gov* between 2019 and 2023 related to high-powered magnets. Since then, CR identified three additional incidents, two of which required surgical intervention, which we shared with the Commission in an April 1, 2025, letter. On April 24, 2025, the CPSC issued a safety warning on small high-powered magnets that fail to comply with the requirements of the mandatory federal regulation for magnet toys, and pose a risk of serious injury or death if ingested by children, which we were glad to see.⁴

Button and Coin Cell Batteries

Reese's Law set strong federal requirements for button battery packaging and warnings, but critical gaps remain, particularly in toys, which adhere to a safety standard that CR's safety experts consider to be too weak. In our December 2024 evaluation of 31 products, which included children's items, we found that several items had battery compartments that were extremely easy to open, posing a hazard for babies and young children.⁵ We continue to urge CPSC staff to keep participating in the voluntary standards process to work towards closing this safety gap.

⁴ CPSC, "CPSC Warns Consumers to Immediately Stop Using Magnetic Balls Due to Risk of Serious Injury or Death from Ingestion Hazard; Violations of the Federal Regulations for Magnet Toys; Sold Exclusively at Amazon.com" (April 24, 2025) (online at: www.cpsc.gov/Warnings/2025/CPSC-Warns-Consumers-to-Immediately-Stop-Using-Magnetic-Balls-Due-to-Risk-of-Serious-Injury-or-Death-from-Ingestion-Hazard-Violations-of-the-Federal-Regulations-for-Magnet-Toys-Sold-Exclusively-at-Amazon-com?utm_campaign=M1&utm_content=recalls&utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdeliver&utm_term=20250424)

⁵ CR, "One-Third of Toys and Household Items With Button-Sized Batteries CR Tested Pose a Hazard to Children" (Dec. 14, 2024) (online at: www.consumerreports.org/electronics-computers/batteries/button-batteries-in-toys-home-items-pose-hazard-to-children-a8831148288/)

Hold retailers and online marketplaces responsible for safety and push for best practices

We thank the Commission for its work to hold e-commerce sites accountable for safety. Retailers and online marketplaces' practices have made clear the need for an independent federal watchdog that monitors product safety and ensures companies are being held accountable, including by taking responsibility for the safety of what they allow to be sold on their platforms.

In 2024 alone, the CPSC's eSAFE team's work resulted in over 53,000 recalled or illegal products being removed from e-commerce sites.⁶ On hybrid marketplaces, products sold by third-party sellers may appear indistinguishable from the platform's own retail listings, leading to confusion and potential risks for consumers. The onus should not be on consumers to figure out which party is selling what, and how protections may vary. If shopping on an e-commerce platform, it is reasonable to believe that buyers will assume that platform is responsible for what they offer for sale.

While some companies may go to great lengths to avoid taking responsibility, we commend the CPSC for fighting against unfounded claims that the CPSC lacks the authority to hold them accountable for wrongdoing. It should continue doing so. Finally, as we have repeatedly stated, Congress should remove the cap on civil penalties to allow CPSC to levy fines that would more effectively fight back against corporate wrongdoing. For too many large corporations, the current cap limitations can too easily be written off as the cost of doing business.

Conclusion

In conclusion, the importance of CPSC's role cannot be overstated. Consumers around the country and organizations like ours rely on the CPSC every day to take strong, data-driven steps in the interest of public safety.

Indeed, the development of CR's product testing criteria and our evaluations are regularly informed by the agency's work. We rely on information collected by the CPSC to identify marketplace trends and product hazards. Through our articles, CR elevates hidden hazards in the home, as well as other little-known safety risks brought to light by the CPSC. We use qualitative and quantitative data gathered by the agency to educate consumers on safety hazards they may never have considered.

We are eager to continue to work with the agency to fulfill its mission in fiscal years 2026 and 2027. We consider it essential for the CPSC to be an independent watchdog, consistent with Congress' intent as expressed in the Consumer Product Safety Act more than five decades ago.

⁶ CPSC, "Operating Plan Fiscal Year 2025" (Approved Nov. 6, 2024) (online at: www.cpsc.gov/s3fs-public/FY-2025-Op-Plan-revised-02-25-25.pdf?VersionId=eoC76aLTUB8Bq.If8WV6gezkm9klj.1)