



UNITED STATES  
**CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY COMMISSION**  
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**COMMISSIONER PETER A. FELDMAN**

**STATEMENT OF COMMISSIONER PETER A. FELDMAN  
ON FISCAL YEAR 2023 OMNIBUS APPROPRIATIONS BILL  
DECEMBER 23, 2022**

Today, Congress passed the fiscal year (FY) 2023 omnibus appropriations bill, funding the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) at \$152.5 million, providing new direction on safety standards for clothing storage units, and reauthorizing the Virginia Graeme Baker Pool and Spa Safety Act (VGBA). While the FY 2023 funding is nearly 25 percent below the CPSC-requested level, this legislation provides certainty for the agency to implement the [FY 2023 Operating Plan](#).

**Key Enforcement Hiring.** With this bill enacted, CPSC can implement my Operating Plan amendment to hire key investigation and enforcement staff immediately. These hires will build on my previous work to grow our Office of Compliance and Field Operations, which had been flat funded for too long. Last year, I led the hiring of 27 new port inspectors to strengthen our front-line efforts to interdict dangerous products at the border. As a result, we are now generating more cases and expect this trend to continue. These hires will increase agency capacity to handle a higher case volume.

**STURDY Act.** Congress also included the Stop Tip-overs of Unstable, Risky Dressers on Youth (STURDY) Act in this legislation. STURDY enjoys unanimous support from a wide range of stakeholders. Nevertheless, in October, CPSC issued a final rule on furniture tip-overs, which I opposed. I believe this final rule has legal deficiencies. It is currently being challenged. As I said at the time, a rule that is stayed or overturned offers zero consumer protections. My colleagues rejected my amendment that would have addressed these deficiencies. It also would have allowed the House of Representatives time to pass STURDY, which had already received the support of all 100 U.S. senators. Unfortunately, my colleagues pressed ahead. We are now currently involved in litigation that was entirely foreseeable and avoidable. Now that STURDY is law, I look forward to working with my colleagues to implement it. I also commend the advocates, many who have spent over a decade working on the issue, for finding a consensus solution to address furniture tip-overs.

**VGBA and Tribal Inclusion.** The Virginia Graeme Baker Act reauthorization includes a provision I supported to extend program grant eligibility to Indian tribes. I worked closely on VGBA as a Senate staffer and I consider its passage one of my top professional accomplishments. As a commissioner, it has been my privilege to travel extensively to meet with various tribes to listen to their concerns and work to address safety disparities. I believe this reauthorization increases inclusivity for tribal communities and advances the aims of this important legislation.

**Realistic Planning.** For the second year in a row, CPSC failed to secure appropriations anywhere near its requests. Our planning documents and requests are untethered from the current fiscal reality. For example, we recently considered the FY 2023 Operating Plan, the FY 2024 Congressional Budget Request, and the 2023-2026 Strategic Plan. [On each occasion](#), I urged my colleagues to base our plans on realistic funding levels. We did not. To secure additional resources, we must demonstrate good stewardship, responsible planning, and meaningful consultation with Congress. As I cautioned [just last week](#), deviating from these principles risks damage to our good will and places future funding at risk.