UNITED STATES
CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY COMMISSION
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JOINT STATEMENT OF CHAIR HOEHN-SARIC AND COMMISSIONERS TRUMKA AND BOYLE: CPSC REJECTS ATTEMPT TO WEAKEN BASSINET STANDARD AND INFANT SLEEP RULE

SEPTEMBER 27, 2022

On Friday, September 23rd, the Commission voted unanimously to protect sleeping babies. We rejected the ASTM revision to a voluntary standard that would have made bassinets less safe and would have allowed firms to end-run the landmark Infant Sleep Products Rule (ISP Rule). With today's vote, we reaffirm our commitment to protecting the most vulnerable among us by maintaining both a strong bassinet standard and infant sleep rule.

We rejected the revised bassinet standard not only because it is weaker than the current bassinet standard, but because it would have allowed the sale of compact bassinets, an entire class of unsafe and less stable products that are currently prohibited under the ISP Rule. Unlike traditional bassinets, compact bassinets have no legs, allowing them to be placed on beds, countertops, and in other unsafe locations where they could fall. The data clearly show that head injuries and deaths from falls occur in these products when they are used on elevated surfaces. Suffocation risks from tipovers also increase when these products are used on soft surfaces, such as couches or beds.

Simply put, these changes would put infants at risk.

We cannot allow our safety standards—especially for infants—to be diluted in this way. We must—and we will—reject any attempt to do so.

Our vote today is a victory for consumers and for infant safety.

September is Baby Safety Month and CPSC will continue to reiterate that infants should only sleep on a firm, flat surface, like a crib. A strong bassinet standard and ISP Rule will help to make every day a safe day for babies. We cannot allow otherwise.