Today, the United States Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) voted to issue an administrative complaint in a case where the Commission has reason to believe that the product at issue presents a substantial product hazard. This complaint follows the Commission’s issuance of a safety warning about the product and a Health and Safety Finding to shorten the notice period required under our statute.

For too long, CPSC has not used all of the tools available to it when dealing with product safety enforcement matters. The Consumer Product Safety Act enables the Commission to provide unilateral warnings and also to litigate mandatory product recalls. Consumers deserve transparency about known product hazards. Consumers also deserve products that are safe. Companies deserve an opportunity to defend themselves in court.

I have long advocated that the Commission use its full complement of resources to protect American consumers. In my view, if a matter is serious enough for the Commission to issue a Health and Safety Finding to truncate the 6(b) process, it may be necessary to pair such public warnings with administrative litigation, as we have done here.