



**U.S. CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY COMMISSION
4330 EAST WEST HIGHWAY
BETHESDA, MD 20814**

**STATEMENT OF COMMISSIONER ELLIOT F. KAYE
ON THE PASSAGE OF THE FISCAL YEAR 2021 OPERATING PLAN**

November 16, 2020

On November 10, 2020, the Commission approved an Operating Plan for Fiscal Year 2021 (FY 2021) by a vote of 3 to 1. This year's Operating Plan contains many important safety initiatives and specific regulatory goals, which are crucial to our efforts to address unresolved safety issues while also positioning the agency to recognize and address emerging hazards more quickly and effectively.

Overall, I was pleased to see that staff recommended and the Commission approved in our planned work for this year a number of urgent safety initiatives, including Final Rules to address hazards associated with crib bumpers, crib mattresses, infant sleep products and table saws and Notice of Proposed Rulemakings to address hazards associated with window coverings, furniture tip overs and magnet sets. Staff also will begin to implement the National Academy of Sciences' plan to assess the potential risks of organohalogen flame retardants (OFR) subclasses. In addition, staff will work on a number of projects to better identify and target violative e-commerce imports, including conducting an e-commerce pilot in coordination with Customs and Border Patrol at an express carrier facility. While I have highlighted a few projects, there are many more performance goals set forth in this year's Operating Plan that are vital to achieving our safety mission.

I am especially grateful to my colleagues for supporting my amendment to address safety disparities among vulnerable populations. At the CPSC, we can and need to do better in acknowledging and working to combat the systemic racism and everyday injustices that affect our society, our employees and our safety work. As adopted, the amendment directs staff to analyze ways to: 1) enhance agency data collection and analysis of product safety incidents, injuries and deaths to identify vulnerable

populations (using such identifiers as race, age, gender, location or socioeconomic status); 2) allocate safety work to better address any existing safety disparities among vulnerable populations; and 3) enhance safety messaging to vulnerable populations. In addition to conducting an analysis, staff must deliver a briefing package to the Commission setting forth staff's conclusions and recommendations on this topic.

Although it took some additional time and effort, I am so pleased we were able to find a path forward to approve this excellent plan to advance our safety mission this fiscal year. My hope remains we will continue to work together in a collaborative manner to aggressively pursue our mission. The public truly deserves no less.