



United States
Consumer Product Safety Commission

Record of Commission Action
Commissioners Voting by Ballot*

Commissioners Voting: Chair Alexander Hoehn-Saric
 Commissioner Dana Baiocco
 Commissioner Peter A. Feldman
 Commissioner Richard Trumka Jr.

ITEM:

Petition Requesting a Ban or Standard on Adult Portable Bed Rails (CP 13-1)
(Briefing package dated March 9, 2022, OS No. 0115)

DECISION:

The Commission voted unanimously (4-0) to grant Petition CP 13-1 and directed staff to draft a notice of proposed rulemaking. The Commission previously docketed two separate requests to initiate proceedings under the Consumer Product Safety Act (CPSA) to address an unreasonable risk of injury associated with adult portable bed rails (APBRs) under Petition CP 13-1. Gloria Black, the National Consumer Voice for Quality Long-Term Care, Consumer Federation of America, and 60 other organizations made one request; Public Citizen Health Research Group made the other request.

Chair Hoehn-Saric and Commissioner Trumka issued statements with their votes (see attachments).

For the Commission:

Alberta Mills
Secretary

*Ballot vote due March 15, 2022.

Attachments:

Statement by Chair Alex Hoehn-Saric
Statement by Commissioner Rich Trumka Jr.



UNITED STATES
CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY COMMISSION
4330 EAST WEST HIGHWAY
BETHESDA, MD 20814

CHAIR ALEXANDER D. HOEHN-SARIC

Statement of Chair Alex Hoehn-Saric Regarding Petition Requesting a Ban or Standard on Adult Portable Bed Rails

March 15, 2022

Today, after reviewing information indicating the vast majority of manufacturers produce adult portable bedrails (bed rails) that fail to meet the current voluntary safety standard, the Commission voted to start a rulemaking that would require Bedrails to meet mandatory safety standards.

This decision is in response to two petitions asking for a mandatory rule to address an unreasonable risk of injury associated with bed rails. Gloria Black, who lost her mother in a bed rail-related incident, the National Consumer Voice for Quality Long-Term Care, Consumer Federation of America, and 60 other organizations submitted the first petition almost nine years ago. Public Citizen Health Research Group (Public Citizen) filed a second petition.

It is unacceptable that so many Americans are harmed or killed when their head or neck becomes entrapped in bed rails. Consumers buy these products specifically to protect vulnerable adults who are in danger of falling or need assistance getting in and out of bed. Bed rails should increase safety and should never create new hazards for this at-risk population, yet CPSC staff has identified 300 deaths associated with bed rails since 2003.

I will move this process forward as quickly as possible so that the bed rails consumers buy for their vulnerable family members are safe. In the meantime, I urge consumers purchasing bed rails to look for ones that are marked as complying with the existing voluntary safety standard. While these may not be easy to find, they do exist and may save the life of your loved one.



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COMMISSIONER RICH TRUMKA JR.

**STATEMENT OF COMMISSIONER RICH TRUMKA JR. ON APPROVAL OF
PETITION REQUESTING A BAN OR STANDARD ON
ADULT PORTABLE BED RAILS**

MARCH 15, 2022

Today, the Commission voted to begin rulemaking to address the risk posed by adult portable bedrails, which have trapped and strangled older adults at alarming rates. This was the right decision to protect older Americans. Over 60 public health groups had petitioned the Commission to take this action. In the time period between when the petition was submitted and the Commission granted it, at least 129 people were killed by adult portable bed rails.

I encourage public health groups to continue submitting petitions. They bring important issues like this to our attention.