



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.