



UNITED STATES
CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY COMMISSION
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**STATEMENT OF
COMMISSIONER RICH TRUMKA JR.**

CPSC PROTECTS BABIES FROM LETHAL INFANT PILLOW SUFFOCATION RISK

Today marks momentous progress in CPSC’s efforts to keep sleeping babies alive. A safety standard is now in effect to make the world safer for a lot of babies. It addresses the risk of death posed by poorly designed “infant support cushions,” commonly known as infant loungers or baby pillows. While these products should *never* be used for sleep, many of them contributed to unsafe sleep conditions, leading to 17 known deaths in 2020 and at least 17 more deaths in 2021.¹

With CPSC’s new standard in place, these pillows must now be firm enough to prevent suffocation and flat enough to prevent the hazardous inclined positioning of a baby’s head and neck. The products must also pass tests for entrapment and fall hazards.

This is a major piece of the safe infant sleep puzzle, because when combined with CPSC’s recently effective rule to make nursing pillows safer,² CPSC’s broad infant sleep products rule,³ and CPSC’s bans on inclined sleepers⁴ and crib bumpers,⁵ this closes one of the largest remaining product safety gaps contributing to unsafe sleep. This will put a stop to

¹ *Safety Standard for Infant Support Cushions*, 89 Fed. Reg. 87,467 (Nov. 4, 2024), available at <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2024/11/04/2024-25181/safety-standard-for-infant-support-cushions>.

² *Safety Standard for Nursing Pillows*, 89 Fed. Reg. 85,388 (Oct. 25, 2024), available at <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2024/10/25/2024-24403/safety-standard-for-nursing-pillows>; Commissioner Rich Trumka Jr., *Safety Changes for Nursing Pillows Will Save Babies’ Lives* (Sept. 18, 2024), available at <https://cpsc.gov/About-CPSC/Commissioner/Richard-Trumka/Statement/Commissioner-Trumka-Safety-Changes-for-Nursing-Pillows-Will-Save-Babies%E2%80%99Lives>.

³ *Safety Standard for Infant Sleep Products*, 86 Fed. Reg. 33,022 (June 23, 2021), available at <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2021/06/23/2021-12723/safety-standard-for-infant-sleep-products>.

⁴ *Ban of Inclined Sleepers for Infants*, 88 Fed. Reg. 55,554 (Aug. 16, 2023), available at <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2023/08/16/2023-17350/ban-of-inclined-sleepers-for-infants>.

⁵ *Ban of Crib Bumpers*, 88 Fed. Reg. 54,878 (Aug. 14, 2023), available at <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2023/08/14/2023-17355/ban-of-crib-bumpers>.

companies avoiding safety standards by calling their baby pillows by different names...we now cover the field for any such products. Over 3,600 infants die in their sleep each year,⁶ many tied to unsafe sleep environments. Our work to save babies' lives by clearing the market of dangerous products continues. Next up: rockers.⁷

Yours in safety,

Commissioner Richard L. Trumka Jr.

*The views expressed in this statement are solely the views of Commissioner Trumka and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Commission.

⁶ CDC, *Data and Statistics for SUID and SIDS* (Sept. 17, 2024), <https://www.cdc.gov/sudden-infant-death/data-research/data/index.html>.

⁷ *Proposed Safety Standard for Infant and Infant/Toddler Rockers*, 88 Fed. Reg. 73,551 (Oct. 26, 2023), available at <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2023/10/26/2023-23322/safety-standard-for-infant-and-infanttoddler-rockers>.