



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

STATEMENT OF COMMISSIONER RICH TRUMKA JR.

## TARGET, WALMART, NORDSTROM, AND BABYLIST COMMIT TO STOP SELLING WEIGHTED INFANT PRODUCTS

April 26, 2024

On April 15, 2024, I wrote to major U.S. retailers informing them of the hazards weighted infant swaddles and blankets pose to babies, and asking them to consider whether they want to continue selling such products.<sup>1</sup> I am pleased to announce that Target, Walmart, Nordstrom, and Babylist quickly responded by sharing that they will cease sales of weighted infant products in the interest of safety.<sup>2</sup> Each of those companies deserves praise for prioritizing safety over profits.

In my letters to retailers, I alerted them to the fact that multiple infant deaths have occurred in weighted infant products. Three federal public health agencies<sup>3</sup> and the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP),<sup>4</sup> have issued warnings recommending against the use of weighted infant blankets and wearables. CPSC warns: “**Don’t** use weighted blankets or weighted swaddles” for your babies.<sup>5</sup> The National Institutes of Health (NIH) says that these weighted products “can pose dangers for babies.” And the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

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<sup>1</sup> Letters from Commissioner Richard L. Trumka to weighted infant product retailers (April 15, 2024) (attached).

<sup>2</sup> Letter from Walmart to the Office of Commissioner Trumka (April 17, 2024); Email from Target to the Office of Commissioner Trumka (April 25, 2024); Email from Nordstrom to the Office of Commissioner Trumka (April 25, 2023); Email from Babylist to the Office of Commissioner Trumka (April 25, 2024).

<sup>3</sup> “Safe Sleep – Cribs and Infant Products,” *CPSC* (last accessed Jan. 22, 2024) (available at: <https://www.cpsc.gov/SafeSleep>); “Helping Babies Sleep Safely,” *CDC* (last accessed Jan. 22, 2024) (available at: <https://www.cdc.gov/reproductivehealth/features/baby-safe-sleep/>); “Safe Sleep Environment for Baby,” *NIH* (last accessed Jan. 22, 2024) (available at: <https://safetosleep.nichd.nih.gov/reduce-risk/safe-sleep-environment>).

<sup>4</sup> Letter from Sandy L. Chung, MD and President of AAP to CPSC and ASTM International F15 Committee Chair Donald Mays (June 15, 2023) (available at: <https://www.documentcloud.org/documents/23849624-aap-letter-61523>).

<sup>5</sup> “Safe Sleep – Cribs and Infant Products,” *CPSC* (last accessed Jan. 18, 2024) (available at: <https://www.cpsc.gov/SafeSleep#:~:text=Don%27t%20use%20weighted%20blankets,such%20as%20any%20in%20clined%20product>).

(CDC) states that “[w]eighted products such as weighted sleepers, weighted swaddles, weighted sleep sacks, and weighted blankets are not safe for infants.”<sup>6</sup> In June 2023, AAP also discussed the risk of brain damage posed by weighted infant sleep products:

These products are associated with concerning reductions in oxygen saturation levels in infants. This means there is evidence that the use of weighted sleep products on infants can lead to lower oxygen levels, which if sustained, may be harmful to the developing infant’s brain.<sup>7</sup>

I’ve sat with the parents of a child who died in one of these products, and I carry their grief with me. I share their desire to make sure that no one else suffers the fate that their family did.

Target, Walmart, Nordstrom, and Babylist are acting as responsible stewards of public safety. They are focusing on their customers’ best interests. Their actions show tremendous promise for the safety of the infant sleep space. I have observed other major companies like Amazon begin to follow their example, sending out notices to consumers that they will no longer be allowing sellers to list these types of products on their platforms.<sup>8</sup> I expect to hear back from additional retailers soon.

Faithfully,

Your consumer advocate at the Consumer Product Safety Commission

**Commissioner Richard L. Trumka Jr.**

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<sup>6</sup> “Safe Sleep Environment for Baby,” *NIH* (last accessed Jan. 18, 2024) (available at: <https://safetosleep.nichd.nih.gov/reduce-risk/safe-sleep-environment>); “Helping Babies Sleep Safely,” *CDC* (last accessed Jan. 18, 2024) (available at: <https://www.cdc.gov/reproductivehealth/features/baby-safe-sleep/>).

<sup>7</sup> Letter from Sandy L. Chung, MD and President of AAP to CPSC and ASTM International F15 Committee Chair Donald Mays (June 15, 2023) (available at: <https://www.documentcloud.org/documents/23849624-aap-letter-61523>).

<sup>8</sup> “Weighted Infant Sleep Products,” Amazon Seller Central (last accessed Apr. 25, 2024) (available at: <https://sellercentral.amazon.com/help/hub/reference/external/GKDFVJSUHPYTRHW3>).



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COMMISSIONER RICH TRUMKA JR.

April 15, 2024

**BY EMAIL AND CERTIFIED MAIL**

Mr. Brian Cornell  
Chair and CEO  
Target Corporation  
1000 Nicollet Mall  
Minneapolis, MN 55403

Dear Mr. Cornell,

I write to inform you of a consensus among public health agencies, pediatricians, and Safe Sleep proponents: that weighted infant products, like sleep sacks, swaddles, and blankets are not safe for infant sleep. I am aware of **multiple infant deaths** involving weighted infant sleep sacks. Currently, Target has listed for sale on its website a number of weighted infant sleep products.<sup>1</sup>

Three federal public health agencies<sup>2</sup> and the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP),<sup>3</sup> an organization representing 67,000 pediatricians, have issued warnings recommending against the use of weighted infant blankets and wearables. CPSC warns: **“Don’t use weighted blankets**

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<sup>1</sup> “Weighted Sleep Sacks for Babies” product search, *Target* (last accessed Apr. 12, 2024) (available at: [https://www.target.com/s?searchTerm=weighted+sleep+sacks+for+babies&category=0%7CAll%7Cmatchallpartial%7Call+categories&tref=typeahead%7Cterm%7C0%7Cweighted+sleep+sacks+for+babies%7Cweighted+sleep+sacks+for+babies%7C%7C%7Cservice%7C%7C%7C%7C%7Cnormalisation%7Ccategory\\_v3&searchTermRaw=weighted+sleep+sack](https://www.target.com/s?searchTerm=weighted+sleep+sacks+for+babies&category=0%7CAll%7Cmatchallpartial%7Call+categories&tref=typeahead%7Cterm%7C0%7Cweighted+sleep+sacks+for+babies%7Cweighted+sleep+sacks+for+babies%7C%7C%7Cservice%7C%7C%7C%7C%7Cnormalisation%7Ccategory_v3&searchTermRaw=weighted+sleep+sack)).

<sup>2</sup> “Safe Sleep – Cribs and Infant Products,” *CPSC* (last accessed Jan. 22, 2024) (available at: <https://www.cpsc.gov/SafeSleep>); “Helping Babies Sleep Safely,” *CDC* (last accessed Jan. 22, 2024) (available at: <https://www.cdc.gov/reproductivehealth/features/baby-safe-sleep/>); “Safe Sleep Environment for Baby,” *NIH* (last accessed Jan. 22, 2024) (available at: <https://safetosleep.nichd.nih.gov/reduce-risk/safe-sleep-environment>).

<sup>3</sup> Letter from Sandy L. Chung, MD and President of AAP to CPSC and ASTM International F15 Committee Chair Donald Mays (June 15, 2023) (available at: <https://www.documentcloud.org/documents/23849624-aap-letter-61523>).

or weighted swaddles” for your babies.<sup>4</sup> The National Institutes of Health (NIH) says that these weighted products “can pose dangers for babies.” And the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) states that “[w]eighted products such as weighted sleepers, weighted swaddles, weighted sleep sacks, and weighted blankets are not safe for infants.”<sup>5</sup>

Dr. Rachel Moon, of the University of Virginia, the nation’s leading expert on safe infant sleep, and co-chair of AAP’s task force on Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS) explained to the Washington Post: “When babies are first born, their rib cage is not rigid, and so it doesn’t take a lot of pressure to press on it and create obstruction there. It makes it harder for them to breathe, it makes it harder for their heart to beat properly if there’s pressure on there.”<sup>6</sup>

In June 2023, AAP also explained the risk of brain damage posed by weighted infant sleep products:

These products are associated with concerning reductions in oxygen saturation levels in infants. This means there is evidence that the use of weight sleep products on infants can lead to lower oxygen levels, which if sustained, may be harmful to the developing infant’s brain.<sup>7</sup>

Considering these serious safety concerns, I would like to speak with a representative of your company to discuss a simple question: does Target really want to continue selling these products to its consumers? Your consumers place a great deal of trust in your hands.

Please contact my Executive Assistant, Isabella Maxey, [IMaxey@cpsc.gov](mailto:IMaxey@cpsc.gov) so that we can schedule a telephone call at your earliest convenience. I look forward to speaking soon.

Sincerely,



Richard L. Trumka Jr.  
Commissioner  
U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission

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<sup>4</sup> “Safe Sleep – Cribs and Infant Products,” CPSC (last accessed Jan. 18, 2024) (available at: <https://www.cpsc.gov/SafeSleep#:~:text=Don%27t%20use%20weighted%20blankets,such%20as%20any%20inclined%20product>).

<sup>5</sup> “Safe Sleep Environment for Baby,” NIH (last accessed Jan. 18, 2024) (available at: <https://safetosleep.nichd.nih.gov/reduce-risk/safe-sleep-environment>); “Helping Babies Sleep Safely,” CDC (last accessed Jan. 18, 2024) (available at: <https://www.cdc.gov/reproductivehealth/features/baby-safe-sleep/>).

<sup>6</sup> Lauren Kirchner, *Weighted blankets are dangerous for babies, doctors warn*, WASH. POST, Jan. 22, 2024 <https://www.washingtonpost.com/wellness/2024/01/22/weighted-baby-blankets-unsafe/>.

<sup>7</sup> *Id.*



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April 15, 2024

**BY EMAIL AND CERTIFIED MAIL**

Mr. Doug McMillon  
President and CEO  
Walmart Inc.  
702 SW 8th Street  
Bentonville, AR 72716

Dear Mr. McMillon,

I write to inform you of a consensus among public health agencies, pediatricians, and Safe Sleep proponents: that weighted infant products, like sleep sacks, swaddles, and blankets are not safe for infant sleep. I am aware of **multiple infant deaths** involving weighted infant sleep sacks. Currently, Walmart has listed for sale on its website a number of weighted infant sleep products.<sup>1</sup>

Three federal public health agencies<sup>2</sup> and the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP),<sup>3</sup> an organization representing 67,000 pediatricians, have issued warnings recommending against the use of weighted infant blankets and wearables. CPSC warns: “**Don’t** use weighted blankets or weighted swaddles” for your babies.<sup>4</sup> The National Institutes of Health (NIH) says that these weighted products “can pose dangers for babies.” And the Centers for Disease Control and

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<sup>1</sup> “Weighted Sleep Sacks for Babies” product search, *Walmart.com* (last accessed Apr. 15, 2024), <https://www.walmart.com/search?q=weighted+sleep+sacks+for+babies>.

<sup>2</sup> “Safe Sleep – Cribs and Infant Products,” *CPSC* (last accessed Jan. 22, 2024) (available at: <https://www.cpsc.gov/SafeSleep>); “Helping Babies Sleep Safely,” *CDC* (last accessed Jan. 22, 2024) (available at: <https://www.cdc.gov/reproductivehealth/features/baby-safe-sleep/>); “Safe Sleep Environment for Baby,” *NIH* (last accessed Jan. 22, 2024) (available at: <https://safetosleep.nichd.nih.gov/reduce-risk/safe-sleep-environment>).

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Prevention (CDC) states that “[w]eighted products such as weighted sleepers, weighted swaddles, weighted sleep sacks, and weighted blankets are not safe for infants.”<sup>5</sup>

Dr. Rachel Moon, of the University of Virginia, the nation’s leading expert on safe infant sleep, and co-chair of AAP’s task force on Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS) explained to the Washington Post: “When babies are first born, their rib cage is not rigid, and so it doesn’t take a lot of pressure to press on it and create obstruction there. It makes it harder for them to breathe, it makes it harder for their heart to beat properly if there’s pressure on there.”<sup>6</sup>

In June 2023, AAP also explained the risk of brain damage posed by weighted infant sleep products:

These products are associated with concerning reductions in oxygen saturation levels in infants. This means there is evidence that the use of weight sleep products on infants can lead to lower oxygen levels, which if sustained, may be harmful to the developing infant’s brain.<sup>7</sup>

Considering these serious safety concerns, I would like to speak with a representative of your company to discuss a simple question: does Walmart really want to continue selling these products to its consumers? Your consumers place a great deal of trust in your hands.

Please contact my Executive Assistant, Isabella Maxey, [IMaxey@cpsc.gov](mailto:IMaxey@cpsc.gov) so that we can schedule a telephone call at your earliest convenience. I look forward to speaking soon.

Sincerely,



Richard L. Trumka Jr.  
Commissioner  
U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission

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<sup>5</sup> “Safe Sleep Environment for Baby,” *NIH* (last accessed Jan. 18, 2024) (available at: <https://safetosleep.nichd.nih.gov/reduce-risk/safe-sleep-environment>); “Helping Babies Sleep Safely,” *CDC* (last accessed Jan. 18, 2024) (available at: <https://www.cdc.gov/reproductivehealth/features/baby-safe-sleep/>).

<sup>6</sup> Lauren Kirchner, *Weighted blankets are dangerous for babies, doctors warn*, *WASH. POST*, Jan. 22, 2024 <https://www.washingtonpost.com/wellness/2024/01/22/weighted-baby-blankets-unsafe/>.

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April 15, 2024

**BY EMAIL AND CERTIFIED MAIL**

Mr. Erik B. Nordstrom  
Chief Executive Officer  
Nordstrom  
1617 6th Avenue  
Seattle, WA 98101

Dear Mr. Nordstrom,

I write to inform you of a consensus among public health agencies, pediatricians, and Safe Sleep proponents: that weighted infant products, like sleep sacks, swaddles, and blankets are not safe for infant sleep. I am aware of **multiple infant deaths** involving weighted infant sleep sacks. Currently, Nordstrom has listed for sale on its website a number of weighted infant sleep products.<sup>1</sup>

Three federal public health agencies<sup>2</sup> and the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP),<sup>3</sup> an organization representing 67,000 pediatricians, have issued warnings recommending against the use of weighted infant blankets and wearables. CPSC warns: “**Don’t** use weighted blankets or weighted swaddles” for your babies.<sup>4</sup> The National Institutes of Health (NIH) says that these weighted products “can pose dangers for babies.” And the Centers for Disease Control and

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<sup>1</sup> “Weighted infant sleep sack” product search, *Nordstrom.com* (last accessed Apr. 15, 2024), <https://www.nordstrom.com/sr?origin=keywordsearch&keyword=weighted+infant+sleep+sack>.

<sup>2</sup> “Safe Sleep – Cribs and Infant Products,” *CPSC* (last accessed Jan. 22, 2024) (available at: <https://www.cpsc.gov/SafeSleep>); “Helping Babies Sleep Safely,” *CDC* (last accessed Jan. 22, 2024) (available at: <https://www.cdc.gov/reproductivehealth/features/baby-safe-sleep/>); “Safe Sleep Environment for Baby,” *NIH* (last accessed Jan. 22, 2024) (available at: <https://safetosleep.nichd.nih.gov/reduce-risk/safe-sleep-environment>).

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In June 2023, AAP also explained the risk of brain damage posed by weighted infant sleep products:

These products are associated with concerning reductions in oxygen saturation levels in infants. This means there is evidence that the use of weight sleep products on infants can lead to lower oxygen levels, which if sustained, may be harmful to the developing infant’s brain.<sup>7</sup>

Considering these serious safety concerns, I would like to speak with a representative of your company to discuss a simple question: does Nordstrom really want to continue selling these products to its consumers? Your consumers place a great deal of trust in your hands.

Please contact my Executive Assistant, Isabella Maxey, [IMaxey@cpsc.gov](mailto:IMaxey@cpsc.gov) so that we can schedule a telephone call at your earliest convenience. I look forward to speaking soon.

Sincerely,



Richard L. Trumka Jr.  
Commissioner  
U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission

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COMMISSIONER RICH TRUMKA JR.

April 15, 2024

**BY EMAIL AND CERTIFIED MAIL**

Ms. Natalie Gordon  
Founder and CEO  
Babylist  
1900 Powell Street, Suite 150  
Emeryville, CA 94608

Dear Ms. Gordon,

I write to inform you of a consensus among public health agencies, pediatricians, and Safe Sleep proponents: that weighted infant products, like sleep sacks, swaddles, and blankets are not safe for infant sleep. I am aware of **multiple infant deaths** involving weighted infant sleep sacks. Currently, Babylist has listed for sale on its website a number of weighted infant sleep products.<sup>1</sup>

Three federal public health agencies<sup>2</sup> and the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP),<sup>3</sup> an organization representing 67,000 pediatricians, have issued warnings recommending against the use of weighted infant blankets and wearables. CPSC warns: “**Don’t** use weighted blankets or weighted swaddles” for your babies.<sup>4</sup> The National Institutes of Health (NIH) says that these weighted products “can pose dangers for babies.” And the Centers for Disease Control and

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<sup>1</sup> “Weighted sleep” product search, *Babylist.com* (last accessed Apr. 15, 2024), [https://www.babylist.com/store/search?search\\_term=weighted%20sleep](https://www.babylist.com/store/search?search_term=weighted%20sleep).

<sup>2</sup> “Safe Sleep – Cribs and Infant Products,” *CPSC* (last accessed Jan. 22, 2024) (available at: <https://www.cpsc.gov/SafeSleep>); “Helping Babies Sleep Safely,” *CDC* (last accessed Jan. 22, 2024) (available at: <https://www.cdc.gov/reproductivehealth/features/baby-safe-sleep/>); “Safe Sleep Environment for Baby,” *NIH* (last accessed Jan. 22, 2024) (available at: <https://safetosleep.nichd.nih.gov/reduce-risk/safe-sleep-environment>).

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These products are associated with concerning reductions in oxygen saturation levels in infants. This means there is evidence that the use of weight sleep products on infants can lead to lower oxygen levels, which if sustained, may be harmful to the developing infant’s brain.<sup>7</sup>

Considering these serious safety concerns, I would like to speak with a representative of your company to discuss a simple question: does Babylist really want to continue selling these products to its consumers? Your consumers place a great deal of trust in your hands.

Please contact my Executive Assistant, Isabella Maxey, [IMaxey@cpsc.gov](mailto:IMaxey@cpsc.gov) so that we can schedule a telephone call at your earliest convenience. I look forward to speaking soon.

Sincerely,



Richard L. Trumka Jr.  
Commissioner  
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<sup>7</sup> *Id.*