



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

March 10, 2015

The Honorable Emily McAsey
Chairperson
House Committee on Elementary & Secondary Education: Charter School Policy
249-E Stratton Office Building
Springfield, IL 62706

Dear Chairperson McAsey:

I write to offer my support for your bill, HB 3761, that would ban padded crib bumpers from sale in Illinois, my home. In my years of experience in the consumer product testing industry, I saw the startling data about the risks these products present. As a father, I want to protect my children from such dangers. As a Commissioner of the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, I want to protect all children.

Padded crib bumpers present an array of serious risks, virtually all of them latent hazards that parents might not instinctively appreciate. Moreover, they contribute to a misperception that a soft, padded crib environment is a safe crib environment, and crib bumpers beget pillows, blankets, and other add-ons. To the contrary, professional safety experts all recognize that an uncluttered crib –an appropriate mattress and a tight-fitting sheet – is the safest environment for a baby’s sleep. Seeing padded bumpers on the shelves contradicts the message the safety community needs caregivers to remember: Bare is Best.¹

Parents naturally assume that cribs are the safest place for children to be, and, before my time at CPSC, the agency helped validate that assumption by issuing the most stringent crib standards in the world, including mandatory testing. However, parents may not realize that a product they purchase to make the crib safer is actually making it *less* safe. Our job is to help parents keep their children safe by ensuring that products sold for use in cribs cannot increase the chances a family will have to endure the unimaginable tragedy of a child's death.

We need to do all we can to protect the precious blessings that are sleeping, growing, and blossoming in cribs across Illinois and across America. As a fellow public servant – and as a father – I applaud your efforts to do just that.

With heartfelt thanks and encouragement,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joe P. Mohorovic", written in a cursive style.

Joseph P. Mohorovic
Commissioner
U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission

¹ For more on CPSC’s Safe to Sleep efforts, you can visit the Crib Information Center at www.cpsc.gov.