January [##], 2020

Senator [##]

[##] Senate Office Building

Washington, DC 20515

Dear Senator [##]:

I am writing today to request your support as a co-sponsor of the [STURDY Act, S1902](https://www.congress.gov/116/bills/s1902/BILLS-116s1902is.pdf) “Stop Tip-Overs of Unstable Risky Dressers on Youth” Act. This bill passed the House of Representatives on September 17th, 2019 with bipartisan support [(HR 2211)](https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/house-bill/2211/text?q=%7B%22search%22%3A%5B%22hr+2211%22%5D%7D&r=1&s=3) and is now in the Senate Committee of Commerce, Science, and Consumer Protection.

Did you know that according to the CPSC’s most recent statistics, every 24 minutes there is a furniture tip-over somewhere in the U.S.? That every 37 minutes a child is rushed to the emergency room due to injuries sustained from a furniture tip-over? That about every 11 days, a child dies as a result of furniture falling on them? In fact, from 2000-2018, there were 556 deaths due to tip-overs, and 459 of them were children, most of whom were under the age of 6, which illustrates while the vast majority of tip-over injuries and deaths are to children, adults are also injured and even killed by tip-overs!

Mandatory and robust product testing and safety requirements could prevent many of these injuries and fatalities and that is what the STURDY Act would do.

Many people mistakenly think furniture tip-over is a problem of poor parental supervision or one only related to cheap, poorly made furniture, but that is simply not true. Physics is what causes furniture to tip. Kids interact with furniture like kids, not like scientists in a lab, so it needs to be tested the way kids interact with it. It doesn’t matter whether it’s light or heavy, short or tall, expensive or not. It doesn’t matter who made it or how old or new it is. *All* furniture has the potential to tip and seriously injure or kill a child or even adults! We *need* to mandate that all manufacturers make more stable furniture. It’s clear after 19 years of an inadequate voluntary standard process, that the furniture industry and the CPSC won’t do it on their own.

I first became aware of the dangers of furniture tip-over \*\*\* Insert your personal story or reason here, how you learned of the dangers and why it’s so important to you that your senator support this legislation. You can share Meghan’s story and website, your own tip-over experience, or whatever led you to become aware of the dangers and realize that a vital part of ending injuries and deaths from tip-overs is the need to require ALL manufacturers to make and sell more stable furniture that is not likely to tip and the STURDY Act is the fastest and best way to make that a reality and save innocent lives\*\*\*

The STURDY Act would direct the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) to create a mandatory clothing storage unit safety standard to help prevent furniture tip-overs. Specifically, the STURDY Act would require the CPSC to create a mandatory rule that would: cover all clothing storage units, regardless of height; require testing to simulate the weights of children up to 72 months of age; require testing measures to account for the ways children interact with furniture in the real world, scenarios involving carpeting, loaded drawers, multiple open drawers, and the dynamic force of a climbing child; mandate strong warning requirements; and require the CPSC to issue the mandatory standard within one year of enactment. To protect children from furniture tip-overs, we need a strong, effective, mandatory standard, and the STURDY Act includes those critically needed provisions. If you are interested in co-sponsoring this important bill, please contact <Livia_Shmavonia@casey.senate.gov>.

It’s said one doesn’t tend to care about solutions until you believe you have the problem. I assure you; this country has this problem. Every citizen who has furniture in their homes, including you, and your friends and family, have this problem. The death of over 459 children due to a furniture tip-over, and the countless others who had near misses and minor injuries, should be more than enough to convince you and your fellow Senators that this is not just a problem, it’s a clear and present danger in every home in this country. One that can be quickly and effectively addressed by passing the STURDY Act.

If it existed 15 years ago, sweet little Meghan Beck, whose mom has been advocating for 15 years through [Meghan’s Hope](http://www.meghanshope.org), and hundreds of other children, would be alive today. Imagine. Just for a moment, finding your child or grandchild lifeless under their dresser or receiving that call from a family member or friend. And then finding out it could have been prevented, if only there were a law requiring furniture be inherently more stable by design. I’ve attached a STURDY Act fact sheet and a copy of the bill for your information. You can also learn more about the history of the voluntary standard process and why it’s inadequate at the [Meghan's Hope Safety Blog](http://www.meghanshope.org/safety-blog).

Furniture tip-over is not a partisan issue. I assure you; furniture falls equally on Republican and Democratic children. This is a public safety issue. It’s about keeping kids safe, no matter who their parents voted for. In the course of your day today, 70 people will be victims of a tip-over. 38 will be rushed to an ER. One of them may die from their injuries, or suffer a catastrophic, life-changing injury. It could be a child you know and love. All of them could be prevented, if the STURDY Act were law.

As the voice of the people in the Senate, you have the power to protect children from this danger in every home, right now. I respectfully ask that you take the time to learn more about this issue and strongly consider co-sponsoring the STURDY Act to send a message to your constituents and your colleagues that protecting their children is a top priority for you.

Sincerely,

(##) your name

Your address

Your email

Your phone #