

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

November 17, 2020

Mr. Robert S. Adler
Acting Chairman
Consumer Product Safety Commission
4330 East West Highway
Bethesda, MD 20814

Dear Acting Chairman Adler:

We write to express our concerns regarding the increase in home injuries and accidental poisonings suffered by children during the pandemic and to request that the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) take steps to ensure that children are kept safe from injuries while at home.

As families continue to work and learn from home during the pandemic, reports indicate that doctors across the nation are witnessing a marked increase in children being treated for injuries suffered at home. These injuries include broken bones—often caused by injuries on bikes and trampolines—burns, and accidental poisonings. Calls to poison control centers made on behalf of children who have swallowed cleaning products and disinfectants have increased over 20 percent during the pandemic, with children 5 and younger accounting for the largest number of cases. Poison control centers have also reported thousands of cases of hand sanitizer poisoning in children 12 and younger.

Even before the pandemic began, unintentional injuries were the leading cause of death for children in the United States. These injuries lead to approximately 12,000 child deaths and 9.2 million emergency department visits each year. The incidence of at-home injuries suffered by children has only increased since the pandemic began.

For this reason, we introduced the bipartisan *COVID-19 Home Safety Act of 2020*, which directs the CPSC to provide Congress with information regarding the incidence of injuries and deaths from consumer products suffered by vulnerable populations—including children—and work with the media to distribute information to help educate families and increase child safety in the home. While we understand that the CPSC is taking action to educate consumers about home safety, more must be done to protect children during the pandemic.

We urge the CPSC to take action to better educate and inform families about how to protect their children at home and collaborate with the media to share this critical information with parents. We also respectfully request that you respond to the following questions:

1. What steps is the CPSC taking to help prevent incidents of child injury at home during the pandemic?
2. What data has the CPSC collected on the number of children involved in at-home accidents since the pandemic began?
3. What actions has the CPSC taken to collaborate with the media and other federal and state agencies to help educate parents about the risk of child injuries at-home during the pandemic and ways that parents can mitigate this risk?
4. Does the CPSC need additional resources to investigate the increase in child injuries during the pandemic and take appropriate measures to help educate parents about how to better protect their children at home?

Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter. We look forward to your response.

Sincerely,



Amy Klobuchar
United States Senator



Jerry Moran
United States Senator