

Accordingly (at 2 o'clock and 6 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1600

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. CUELLAR) at 4 p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or votes objected to under clause 6 of rule XX.

The House will resume proceedings on postponed questions at a later time.

STOP TIP-OVERS OF UNSTABLE, RISKY DRESSERS ON YOUTH ACT

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2211) to require the Consumer Product Safety Commission to promulgate a consumer product safety rule for free-standing clothing storage units to protect children from tip-over related death or injury, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2211

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Stop Tip-overs of Unstable, Risky Dressers on Youth Act" or the "STURDY Act".

SEC. 2. CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY STANDARD TO PROTECT AGAINST TIP-OVER OF CLOTHING STORAGE UNITS.

(a) **CLOTHING STORAGE UNIT DEFINED.**—*In this section, the term "clothing storage unit" means any free-standing furniture item manufactured in the United States or imported for use in the United States that is intended for the storage of clothing, typical of bedroom furniture.*

(b) **CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY STANDARD REQUIRED.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—*Except as provided in subsection (c)(1), not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Consumer Product Safety Commission shall—*

(A) *in consultation with representatives of consumer groups, clothing storage unit manufacturers, craft or handmade furniture manufacturers, and independent child product engineers and experts, examine and assess the effectiveness of any voluntary consumer product safety standards for clothing storage units; and*

(B) *in accordance with section 553 of title 5, United States Code, promulgate a final consumer product safety standard for clothing storage units to protect children from tip-over-related death or injury that includes—*

(i) *tests that simulate the weight of children up to 60 pounds;*

(ii) *objective, repeatable, and measurable tests that simulate real world use and account for any impact on clothing storage unit stability that may result from placement on carpeted surfaces, drawers with items in them, multiple open drawers, or dynamic force;*

(iii) *testing of all clothing storage units, including those under 30 inches in height; and*

(iv) *warning requirements based on ASTM F2057-17, or its successor at the time of enactment, provided that the Consumer Product Safety Commission shall strengthen the requirements of ASTM F2057-17, or its successor, if reasonably necessary to protect children from tip-over-related death or injury.*

(2) **TREATMENT OF STANDARD.**—*A consumer product safety standard promulgated under paragraph (1) shall be treated as a consumer product safety rule promulgated under section 9 of the Consumer Product Safety Act (15 U.S.C. 2058).*

(c) **SEQUENT RULEMAKING.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—*At any time subsequent to the publication of a consumer product safety standard under subsection (b)(1), the Commission may initiate a rulemaking, in accordance with section 553 of title 5, United States Code to modify the requirements of the consumer product safety standard described in subsection (b)(1) if reasonably necessary to protect children from tip-over-related death or injury.*

(2) **REVISION OF RULE.**—*If, after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention revises its Clinical Growth Charts, the consumer product safety standard described in subsection (b)(1) shall, on the date that is 180 days after such revision, be revised to include tests that simulate the weight of children up to the 95th percentile weight of children 72 months in age, as depicted in the revised Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Clinical Growth Charts, unless the Commission determines the modification is not reasonably necessary to protect children from tip-over-related death or injury.*

(3) **TREATMENT OF RULES.**—*Any rule promulgated under paragraph (1) or revision made pursuant to paragraph (2) shall be treated as a consumer product safety rule promulgated under section 9 of the Consumer Product Safety Act (15 U.S.C. 2058).*

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Illinois (Ms. SCHAKOWSKY) and the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. LONG) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Illinois.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous materials on H.R. 2211.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Illinois?

There was no objection.

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today as a very proud and grateful person who has been a consumer advocate all of my life.

Today, Congressman LONG, you and I are going to be dealing with bills that may not always get the top headlines, but they save lives.

When I say grateful, I am so grateful to our ranking member, Congresswoman RODGERS, and for all the bipartisan support that we have had on these bills. It means so much to me.

I rise in strong support of H.R. 2211, the Stop Tip-overs of Unstable Risky Dressers on Youth Act, which is known as the STURDY Act.

I introduced this legislation with Representatives JERRY MCNERNEY,

DARREN SOTO, and BOBBY RUSH. This legislation advanced out of the Energy and Commerce Committee on July 17, 2019, by voice vote, meaning unanimously, bipartisanship.

According to data collected by the Consumer Product Safety Commission, a child is injured from a tip-over every 17 minutes. Every 10 days, a child dies from one of these tip-overs. Particularly deadly are tip-overs of clothing storage units, such as dressers.

Since 2000, these clothing units have killed more than 200 children in the United States. Victims tend to be under the age of 6. At this age, children are mobile and curious. They like to climb on furniture, play in the drawers, or stand in the drawers and reach for items on top of units. Tragedy can come in just minutes. Just after a child awakes from a nap or a night's sleep, they are likely to engage in this kind of activity.

Tens of millions of dressers have been recalled in recent years. Unfortunately, children continue to die from furniture tip-overs. That is because the current industry furniture stability standard is simply too weak. It does not cover shorter clothing storage units that have also been known to kill children, and industry tests don't cover common hazard patterns. Moreover, the standard is only voluntary.

That is why it is critical that we pass the STURDY Act, which would require the Consumer Product Safety Commission to promulgate a strong and mandatory safety standard that is effective at preventing furniture tip-overs.

I especially thank the families of victims, the people who have come with pictures of their children or their loved ones to talk about how important this bill is, how hard it is for them to talk about the terrible loss of life in their families. It is those people who have really told the story of how important it is for us to act today.

I appreciate the willingness, as I said before, of our ranking member and all the Republicans to work with me to bring this bill to the floor. I call on all of my colleagues to support this measure, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LONG. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, unfortunately, I have personal knowledge of this type of situation. Just within the last 30 days, a friend of mine lost a 3-year-old grandchild due to one of these situations. There can be nothing worse than losing a child. To have a vibrant 3-year-old child one minute and a deceased 3-year-old the next is not acceptable.

This bill directs the Consumer Product Safety Commission to issue a consumer product safety standard for clothing storage units, to prevent them from tipping over onto children.

In the spirit of bipartisanship, we support this bill moving forward with the House passage today.

I thank my friend Ms. SCHAKOWSKY for her efforts in this endeavor. I urge