

109TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1861

To direct the Consumer Product Safety Commission to issue regulations concerning the safety and labeling of certain furniture and electronic appliances.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 26, 2005

Ms. SCHWARTZ of Pennsylvania (for herself, Mr. MCGOVERN, and Mr. DAVIS of Illinois) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce

A BILL

To direct the Consumer Product Safety Commission to issue regulations concerning the safety and labeling of certain furniture and electronic appliances.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Katie Elise and
5 Meghan Agnes Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds the following:

8 (1) An estimated 8,000 to 10,000 victims are
9 treated annually in hospital emergency rooms in the

1 United States for injuries associated with the tip
2 over of furniture or appliances, and an average of 6
3 deaths occur each year as a result.

4 (2) The majority of these injuries and deaths
5 are to children.

6 (3) These injuries and deaths frequently occur
7 when children climb onto, fall against, or pull them-
8 selves up on such items as shelves, bookcases, dress-
9 ers, bureaus, desks, chests, television stands, and
10 television sets.

11 (4) There are currently no mandatory safety
12 standards in place for such items of furniture and
13 electronic appliances.

14 (5) The issuance of mandatory safety standards
15 to warn and protect consumers of the dangers asso-
16 ciated with unsecured furniture and electronic appli-
17 ances would reduce the risk of injury or death.

18 **SEC. 3. FURNITURE AND APPLIANCE SAFETY AND LABEL-**
19 **ING STANDARDS.**

20 (a) **APPLICABLE FURNITURE AND APPLIANCES.—**

21 Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of
22 this Act, the Consumer Product Safety Commission (in
23 this Act referred to as the “Commission”) shall promul-
24 gate regulations pursuant to section 7 of the Consumer
25 Product Safety Act (15 U.S.C. 2056) applicable to any

1 furniture or electronic appliance that the Commission de-
2 termines poses a substantial safety hazard due to tipping
3 because of its design, height, weight, stability, or other
4 features.

5 (b) SAFETY STANDARDS.—The regulations pre-
6 scribed pursuant to subsection (a) shall, at a minimum,
7 require—

8 (1) all applicable furniture to withstand a rea-
9 sonable amount of pressure, as determined by the
10 Commission, in both loaded and unloaded conditions,
11 without tipping; and

12 (2) the inclusion of angle-braces, anchors, or
13 other anchoring devices, and instructions, including
14 pictures, for securing furniture to wall beams using
15 the provided angle-braces or anchors, in the pack-
16 aging of all furniture that does not meet the require-
17 ments of paragraph (1), or furniture or electronic
18 appliances that, in the opinion of the Commission,
19 could be made more secure by the inclusion of such
20 braces and devices.

21 **SEC. 4. LABELING REQUIREMENTS.**

22 In addition to the safety standards promulgated pur-
23 suant to section 2, the Commission shall promulgate regu-
24 lations requiring the following related to warning labels:

1 (1) Warning labels shall be required on the
2 packaging of any furniture or electronic appliance
3 that the Commission determines poses a substantial
4 safety hazard due to tipping because of its design,
5 height, weight, stability, or other features. Such
6 warning labels shall state, in a clear and conspicuous
7 manner, that unsecured furniture may tip resulting
8 in serious bodily injury or even death and shall ad-
9 vise securing the furniture to a wall beam or using
10 angle-braces, as appropriate, to make the furniture
11 more secure; and

12 (2) Warning labels shall be required on the
13 packaging of any furniture with drawers that the
14 Commission determines poses a danger to children
15 due to tipping. Such warning labels shall state, in a
16 clear and conspicuous manner, that children may
17 use drawers as steps causing furniture to tip result-
18 ing in serious bodily injury or even death, and shall
19 advise installing locking devices on drawers to pre-
20 vent the drawers from being opened by children.

21 **SEC. 5. FACTORS.**

22 In prescribing the safety standards under this Act,
23 the Commission shall take into consideration the intended
24 uses of the furniture or electronic appliance and the likeli-

- 1 hood that, due to the design of the furniture, children
- 2 could climb on or tip the furniture.

