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United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510 - 3505

June 5, 2014

Robert S. Adler
Acting Chairman
United States Consumer Product Safety Commission
4330 E West Hwy # 502
Bethesda, MD 20814

Dear Acting Chairman Adler:

I am concerned about the lack of an effective shopping cart safety standard in the United States. Each year 24,000 children visit the emergency room for a shopping cart-related injury. While I appreciate that the U. S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) has committed to looking into this issue, more must be done. I urge the CPSC to expedite its review of this issue and consider promulgating a mandatory shopping cart safety standard to help protect children from future shopping cart-related injuries.

In 2004, the American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM) adopted a voluntary shopping cart safety standard (ASTMF2372) to address shopping cart-related injuries. Unfortunately, this voluntary standard has failed to decrease the rate of these serious injuries. Children continue to fall from shopping carts at an alarming level. A January 2014 study conducted by researchers at Nationwide Children's Hospital in Columbus, Ohio, found that more than 66 children per day, or one child every 22 minutes, are admitted to the emergency room for injuries related to shopping carts.

Ohio is not exempt from this problem. Almost ten years ago, a family in Ohio lost their son to a head injury he developed from falling out of a shopping cart. Given the ineffectiveness of ASTMF2372, it is time for the CPSC to consider a mandatory safety standard. America's children deserve protection from these avoidable injuries today.

In light of the study by Nationwide's Center for Injury Research and Policy, I urge the CPSC to work with the ASTM's voluntary standards subcommittee, shopping cart manufacturers, retailers, and child safety experts to: (1) establish a stability performance test for shopping carts within the ASTMF2372 voluntary standard, (2) increase public awareness efforts about shopping cart safety for children, and (3) encourage the development and implementation of safer cart designs.

By working together, we can ensure that adequate safeguards remain in place to protect children from serious injury or death. Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Sherrod Brown
United States Senator