

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-3813

Help Protect Children from Furniture Tip Over Accidents
Cosponsor the Katie Elise and Meghan Agnes Act

April 20, 2005

Dear Colleague:

Tragically, within the last five months, two children from our home states – both just three years old – lost their lives as a result of un-secure furniture. Meghan Agnes Beck of Sterling, Massachusetts died on December 18, 2004 from injuries sustained as a result of her bedroom dresser falling on top of her. Katie Elise Lambert of Jenkintown, PA died just one month later, on January 21, 2005, from a similar incident. We share these stories because there are steps we can take to help prevent furniture-related injuries and save lives.

In the coming days, we will introduce the *Katie Elise and Meghan Agnes Act*. Our bill would require the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) to issue mandatory safety measures to prevent accidents associated with the tip over of furniture and electronic appliances. Currently, no such standards exist.

Specifically, the bill would require that any furniture or electronic appliance in jeopardy of tipping would have to bear a warning label alerting consumers to the potential dangers of un-secure furniture. In addition, they would be required to come packaged with anchoring devices, and clear installation directions, so they can be safely secured to wall beams.

Sadly, the deaths of Meghan Agnes and Katie Elise are not isolated incidents. According to CPSC, furniture tipping causes six deaths and sends 8,000 to 10,000 people, predominantly children, to the emergency room each year.

Now is the time to provide consumers with the information they need to ensure their and their children's safety. We hope you will join us in this effort by cosponsoring the *Katie Elise and Meghan Agnes Act*. To sign on to the bill or if you have any questions, please contact Aaron Brand (Rep. A. Schwartz) at x5-6111 or Aaron.Brand@mail.house.gov or Rianna Brown (Rep. McGovern) at x5-6101 or Rianna.Brown@mail.house.gov.

Sincerely,



ALLYSON Y. SCHWARTZ
Member of Congress



JAMES P. McGOVERN
Member of Congress