

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20510

July 14, 2023

Chair Alexander Hoehn-Saric
U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission
4330 East-West Highway
Bethesda, MD 20814

Dear Chair Hoehn-Saric,

We write with serious concern over recently revealed information about the Boppy Newborn Lounger. The Consumer Product Safety Commission (“CPSC”) issued a recall of this product in September 2021¹ after it was linked to eight infant deaths. Since this recall, the Boppy Newborn Lounger has been linked to two additional deaths, bringing the total to at least ten.²

The American Academy of Pediatrics has long recommended that babies sleep on firm, flat non-inclined surfaces, yet these loungers are an example of the unnecessary products that conflict with these recommendations and put lives at risk. While manufacturers might claim these products are not for infant sleep, their design and marketing often signal otherwise to parents and caregivers. We applaud the agency for acting swiftly to reannounce the recall of the Boppy Lounger and for condemning Facebook Marketplace for failing to remove recalled products from their site.³ This is not the first time Meta has failed to properly oversee their online marketplace from distributing products that directly harm consumers and they must be held accountable.⁴

Unfortunately, the Boppy Lounger is not the only lounger available for sale that poses a serious danger for infants and unsuspecting parents. Last year, the CPSC took action to warn consumers against using infant loungers manufactured by Leachco, Inc. after they were linked to

¹ CPSC Recall, [CPSC and The Boppy Company Urge Consumers to Stop Using Recalled Boppy Newborn Loungers and Urge Online Marketplaces to Stop Selling the Recalled Product; Two Additional Infant Deaths Reported Shortly After 2021 Recall | CPSC.gov](#)

² Yu, Yi-Jin, “Parents warned to stop using recalled Bobby loungers linked to at least 10 infant deaths,” GMA (June 6, 2023), [Parents warned to stop using recalled Boppy loungers linked to at least 10 infant deaths - Good Morning America](#)

³ CPSC Recall, [CPSC and The Boppy Company Urge Consumers to Stop Using Recalled Boppy Newborn Loungers and Urge Online Marketplaces to Stop Selling the Recalled Product; Two Additional Infant Deaths Reported Shortly After 2021 Recall | CPSC.gov](#)

⁴ Press Release, [SCHAKOWSKY & BLUMENTHAL TO FACEBOOK MARKETPLACE: STOP RESALES OF DEADLY RECALLED PRODUCTS LIKE Rock ‘n Play SLEEPER | Congresswoman Jan Schakowsky \(house.gov\)](#)

the suffocation of two infants.⁵ Following the report of infant deaths, Leachco, Inc. refused to undertake a voluntary recall, threatening more lives. We were pleased to see the CPSC file a lawsuit against Leachco, Inc. to protect public safety⁶ but the fight must continue; an investigation conducted by NBC News last month revealed that at least 25 babies have died as a result of infant loungers since 2015.⁷

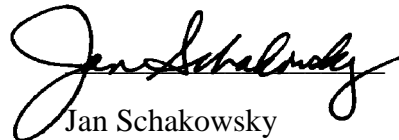
We applaud the agency for their work on infant sleep products, and we also recognize and support the CPSC's separate work to make infant feeding support pillows as safe as possible for parents and caregivers.⁸ Dangerous infant loungers remain poorly regulated to date and as the CPSC takes action to regulate infant pillows, it is imperative that this rule include infant loungers. A strong rule that eliminates pillow-like loungers, and other similar products that invite parents to use them believing these products are safe for infant sleep, is essential.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter. We look forward to our continued collaboration in preventing senseless tragedies moving forward.

Sincerely,



Richard Blumenthal
United States Senate



Jan Schakowsky
Member of Congress

⁵ CPSC Warning, [CPSC Warns Consumers: Stop Using the Leachco Podster, Podster Plush, Bummzie and Podster Playtime Infant Loungers Due to Suffocation Hazard; Two Infant Deaths Investigated | CPSC.gov](#)

⁶ CPSC Announcement, [CPSC Sues Leachco Over Suffocation Hazard from Defective Infant Loungers, Seeks Notice and Refund to Consumers from Company | CPSC.gov](#)

⁷ Khimm, Suzy and Chuck, Elizabeth, "As federal officials delayed rules on infant loungers, babies continued to die," NBC, [Baby loungers tied to more deaths than previously announced \(nbcnews.com\)](#)

⁸ CPSC Operating Plan; [FY 2023 Operating Plan \(cpsc.gov\)](#)