



AHFA STATEMENT ON *STURDY*

April 2019

BACKGROUND:

On Wednesday, April 10, Rep. Jan Schakowsky (D-IL) introduced the Stop Tip-overs of Unstable, Risky Dressers on Youth Act of 2019 – or “STURDY.”

The STURDY Act (H.R. 2211) directs the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) to adopt a mandatory stability standard for clothing storage furniture within one year of the bill’s enactment. This mandatory standard must include:

- Stability tests for all clothing storage furniture, regardless of height;
- Stability tests designed to simulate the weight of children up to 72 months (6 years old);
- Stability tests “that more closely simulate real world use,” including tests that account for carpeting, drawers with items in them, and “dynamic force.”

AHFA STATEMENT:

The American Home Furnishings Alliance (AHFA) supports a mandatory stability standard that holds all manufacturers to rigorous safety specifications for clothing storage furniture.

AHFA welcomes and supports the CPSC’s recent moves to expedite a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking for a mandatory furniture stability standard under Sections 7 and 9 of the Consumer Product Safety Act. AHFA believes CPSC should allocate the necessary resources on this effort in 2019-2020 to ensure the goal is met.

Until a mandatory standard is in place, AHFA welcomes and supports CPSC’s compliance activity to identify and recall clothing storage furniture that does not comply with the voluntary ASTM F2057-17.

AHFA opposes STURDY because:

- CPSC and its staff of technical experts, working in collaboration with child safety advocates and furniture industry professionals, are best equipped to identify the requirements of an effective mandatory standard, not Congress;
- As proposed, STURDY mandates specific technical provisions, such as “dynamic force” testing, that have not been defined, researched, nor even shown to be feasible; and,
- Because the proposed technical requirements of STURDY are ambiguous, there may be no clear pathway for manufacturers to comply with the resulting standard. This will render it unenforceable.

With these critical flaws, STURDY is headed for a long and cumbersome legislative debate. AHFA supports a more expedient route to a mandatory furniture stability standard.