



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 a rigorous safety standard 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 expend the necessary resources on this effort in 2019-2020 to ensure the goal is met.

CPSC’s Notice of Proposed Rulemaking makes the STURDY Act unnecessary. In addition,

- CPSC and its staff of consumer safety technical experts, working in collaboration with child safety advocates and technical experts from the home furnishings industry, are best equipped to identify the requirements of an effective mandatory standard;
- As proposed, STURDY mandates specific technical provisions that have not been clearly defined, researched, nor even shown to be feasible; and,
- Because the proposed technical requirements of STURDY are ambiguous, there can be no clear pathway to compliance, and this could render the resulting standard unenforceable.

Even without these critical flaws, STURDY must be passed by Congress before the clock begins ticking on the one-year window for CPSC to adopt a mandatory standard. With appropriate resources dedicated to designing new testing protocol, an effective mandatory standard can be underway immediately ... rather than potentially stalled in a long and cumbersome legislative process.