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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0502

November 20, 2015

Administrator Mark Rosekind
U.S. Department of Transportation
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Administrator Rosekind:

With the important work that your agency does in setting federal safety standards for vehicles, I am writing to request that you evaluate the impacts of the application of Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard (FMVSS) No. 302, “Flammability of interior materials” to children’s car seats.

An increasing body of evidence strongly suggests that chemical flame retardants, including those applied to children’s car seats, can persist in the environment and pose harmful effects to human health, especially by accumulating in the developing bodies of young children. These broad concerns have resulted in some manufacturers phasing out specific chemical flame retardants from their products, and the State of California changing its state furniture flammability standards from a 12-second open-flame test to a smolder test, which can be met without adding chemical flame retardants to furniture products.

In the case of applying chemical flame retardants to child safety products like car seats, it is especially important for the public to know that these long-term health risks are justified by an increased safety benefit. However, I am not aware of any data demonstrating a reduction in fire-related deaths or injuries as a result of the application of the federal fire test standard to children’s car seats.

With this in mind, I urge you to analyze the safety benefits of applying FMVSS No. 302 to children’s car seats, including whether any studies have found that applying chemical flame retardants to children’s car seats reduces preventable deaths or injuries to children or other passengers.

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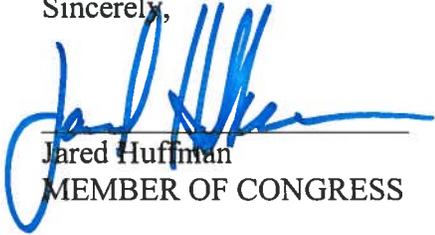
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Thank you for your consideration of my request. I look forward to your professional and expert insights on this important issue.

Sincerely,



Jared Huffman
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

CC: Elliot Kaye, Chairman, U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission