



May 14, 2007

The Honorable Edward Markey  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Markey:

On behalf of Safe Kids USA, a member of Safe Kids Worldwide, I would to thank you once again for sponsoring the *National Amusement Park Ride Safety Act*.

With approximately forty-six fatalities attributed to permanent amusement park rides from 1987 to 2004, and an estimated 3,400 injuries in the year 2004 alone, the time has come for Congress to close the “roller coaster loophole” and enable the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) to have authority over fixed-site amusement parks. Current law allows the CPSC to have jurisdiction over carnival rides moved from site to site, but not rides located on permanent grounds. States have a variety of amusement park safety laws on the books; according to Saferparks, as of 2006:

- 39 states do not require public reporting of major mechanical failures on amusement rides;
- 16 states do not require public reporting of fatalities and severe injures on amusement rides; and
- Six states had no inspection laws whatsoever.

The CPSC must be granted jurisdiction of fixed-site amusement park rides in order for all states to benefit from federal investigation of safety hazards and public information sharing of associated risks. Of course, this expanded jurisdiction would have to come with the appropriate additional funding to allow the agency to properly address this new responsibility.

The *National Amusement Park Ride Safety Act*, if passed, will help to ensure the health and safety of our nation’s most precious resource – its children. If Safe Kids can be of any assistance to you, please do not hesitate to contact me at 202/662-4463 or Tanya Chin Ross, Senior Public Policy Associate, at 202/662-0606. Thank you for your continued leadership on this important safety initiative.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Alan Korn", written over a horizontal line.

Alan Korn, J.D.  
Director of Public Policy & General Counsel

*Safe Kids Worldwide is a global network of organizations whose mission is to prevent accidental childhood injury, a leading killer of children 14 and under. More than 450 coalitions in 16 countries bring together health and safety experts, educators, corporations, foundations, governments and volunteers to educate and protect families.*