



November 30, 2007

The Honorable Ellen Tauscher
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Tauscher:

On behalf of Safe Kids USA, a member of Safe Kids Worldwide, I would like to thank you once again for sponsoring the *Infant Crib Safety Act*.

As you may know, each year in the United States, cribs and playpens are responsible for half of all nursery product-related deaths among children ages 5 and under. Cribs – primarily older, used cribs, are responsible for 26 strangulation and suffocation deaths each year. Overall, suffocation is the leading cause of unintentional injury-related death among children ages 0 – 1. Removing unsafe cribs from the stream of commerce will not only prevent injuries and deaths caused by cribs, but also save money. In fact, the total annual cost of airway obstruction injury (suffocation, choking, and strangulation) among children ages 14 and under exceeds \$1.5 billion; children ages 4 and under account for more than 60 percent of these costs.

In 2000, Safe Kids partnered with the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission on a nationwide crib safety initiative. Spot checks conducted by state and local Safe Kids coalitions found unsafe cribs and play yards in 80 percent of the hotels and motels visited. Crib safety hazards included: loose hardware; lack of secured mattress supports; and soft bedding (such as quilts, comforters or pillows) that could cause suffocation. More recent spot checks suggest that the condition of cribs at these venues has gotten no better.

The *Infant Crib 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 or Tanya Chin Ross, Senior Public Policy Associate, at 202/662-0600. 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
Director of Public Policy and General Counsel