



UNITED STATES
CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY COMMISSION
4330 EAST WEST HIGHWAY
BETHESDA, MD 20814

COMMISSIONER PETER A. FELDMAN

**Statement of Commissioner Peter A. Feldman
On reopening the Fiscal Year 2021 Operating Plan
October 30, 2020**

The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) this week announced that it will reopen its vote to approve the Fiscal Year 2021 Operating Plan, which previously failed to garner support from a majority of the Commission. The CPSC Operating Plan, one of the key policy documents approved annually by the Commission, establishes the agency's objectives and dedicates staff hours and taxpayer dollars towards the execution of CPSC's safety mission. It is critical that the agency pass an Operating Plan to provide clarity and direction to staff for the upcoming year. The Operating Plan should include a responsible allocation of agency resources and enjoy support from a majority of Commissioners, if not unanimous approval.

CPSC is, at its core, an enforcement agency charged with protecting the public from unsafe products. Too often, and particularly in recent months, the CPSC has fallen short in discharging this duty, as evidenced by fewer recalls, longer wait times, and more settlements that don't advance consumer safety. Given the current freeze on funding for CPSC's Office of Compliance headquarters team, which has been flatlined since at least 2016, these results should surprise no one. We must fix this, and the solution should be bipartisan. That is why I plan to reintroduce my amendment that would increase funding for the agency's headquarters compliance team by 10 percent and offset this plus up from non-mission critical agency expenditures. My amendment is a starting point. I am open to more funding and am agnostic on the offset. As always, I invite input from my colleagues; however, I cannot support an Operating Plan without additional resources for enforcement. It is my hope that my fellow Commissioners will rise to the occasion and support this initiative.