

UNITED STATES CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY COMMISSION 4330 EAST WEST HIGHWAY BETHESDA, MD 20814 COMMISSIONER PETER A. FELDMAN

STATEMENT OF COMMISSIONER PETER A. FELDMAN ON \$6 MILLION CIVIL PENALTY AGAINST CLAWFOOT SUPPLY, LLC

SEPTEMBER 14, 2022

This week, the Commission approved a proposed settlement with Clawfoot Supply, LLC (Clawfoot) regarding the company's failure to report a defect with its shower seat that posed a fall and laceration hazard.

I supported this proposed settlement, which includes among other things a \$6 million civil penalty, because it is consistent with prior Commission civil penalties, is appropriately sized to the conduct at issue, and is defensible under CPSC's <u>civil penalty factors</u>.

Unlike other recent Commission civil penalty settlements I have opposed, Clawfoot's failure to report did not result in fatalities of which CPSC is aware and was not the conduct of a known recidivist company. Additionally, the number of products in commerce was modest, and the penalty amount is consistent with other recent Commission settlements with similar facts and circumstances (*e.g.*, <u>Cybex</u> and <u>Core</u>).

While I voted to accept this proposed settlement, I remain disturbed at the Commission's lack of coherence as it relates to civil penalty fine amounts and other terms and conditions. As I have <u>stated before previously</u>, CPSC needs a principled and effective civil penalty regime. I look forward to working with my colleagues to develop such a system.