

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND REFORM

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Opening Statement

Subcommittee Chairman Raja Krishnamoorthi

Committee on Oversight and Reform

“Sleeping Danger: The Rock ‘n Play and Failures in Infant Product Safety”

June 7, 2021

Chairwoman Maloney, thank you for holding this hearing. This is an investigation that we started with Chairman Cummings, and I know that he’d be proud of the work we’re doing today.

We’ve investigated a number of companies that make products for babies. Companies that are household names, like Johnson & Johnson, Gerber, and now Fisher-Price. Each time, we’ve expected these companies to take greater precautions, given their intended user. Each time, we’ve expected companies to change or remove products when their danger became apparent. And each time, we’ve been gravely disappointed.

Fisher-Price put the Rock ‘n Play sleeper on the market ignoring safety concerns prior to launch. And when private reports came in that the product was linked to babies’ deaths, Fisher-Price ignored those too. Only when media outlets like Consumer Reports publicized the danger of their products did Fisher-Price take them off the market.

Companies like Fisher-Price and Mattel have demonstrated that they cannot be left to police themselves. Unfortunately, regulators must continue to step up and carefully regulate products for babies and children. Today’s hearing will illuminate why.

Thank you, and I yield back.

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