

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from Illinois (Ms. SCHAKOWSKY), the chairwoman of the subcommittee.

I also want to say that she is really our superhero when it comes to these consumer issues, always looking out for things, because as the world changes, we have to constantly be vigilant. And that, she certainly is.

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman for yielding and for his kind words.

I also thank the authors of this legislation, Representatives CÁRDENAS, DAVIS, CASTOR, and UPTON, a bipartisan leadership group on this legislation.

And I also thank the ranking member of the subcommittee, Mr. BILIRAKIS, for his cooperation on this and so many other issues.

Mr. Speaker, children are particularly vulnerable to risks associated with household consumer products. These risks have been magnified by the pandemic as families spend more time at home and parents juggle working from home and supervising children.

This legislation will direct the Consumer Product Safety Commission to study and report injuries and deaths associated with consumer products during the pandemic. A lot of progress has been made, but the pandemic is not yet over.

Americans deserve up-to-date information about emerging threats to the safety of their children, and so this legislation is very important.

This legislation also directs the Department of Commerce to study and report to the Congress on the impact of the pandemic on the travel and tourism industries.

These industries were really hit hard by the pandemic. Over 15.7 million Americans work in travel or tourism. Many of these jobs are just now starting to come back. Industries that depend on travel or tourism like the arts, live events, hotels, and restaurants are still hurting. We must understand the full impact of the pandemic on travel and tourism so that we can help these industries to be able to build back better.

Mr. GUTHRIE. Mr. Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to vote for this bill. I think it is a good bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I also urge bipartisan support for this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3752.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

MR. ROSENDALE. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 3(s) of House Resolution 8, the yeas and nays are ordered.

Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion are postponed.

CONSUMER SAFETY TECHNOLOGY ACT

MR. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3723) to direct the Consumer Product Safety Commission to establish a pilot program to explore the use of artificial intelligence in support of the mission of the Commission and direct the Secretary of Commerce and the Federal Trade Commission to study and report on the use of blockchain technology and digital tokens, respectively.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 3723

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the “Consumer Safety Technology Act”.

(b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents for this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.
Sec. 2. Definitions.

TITLE I—ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE AND CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY

Sec. 101. Short title.
Sec. 102. Pilot program for use of artificial intelligence by Consumer Product Safety Commission.

TITLE II—BLOCKCHAIN TECHNOLOGY INNOVATION

Sec. 201. Short title.
Sec. 202. Study on blockchain technology and its use in consumer protection.

TITLE III—DIGITAL TOKEN TAXONOMY

Sec. 301. Short title.
Sec. 302. Findings.
Sec. 303. Reports on unfair or deceptive acts or practices in transactions relating to digital tokens.

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act—

(1) the term “consumer product” has the meaning given such term in section 3(a) of the Consumer Product Safety Act (15 U.S.C. 2052(a)); and

(2) the term “Secretary” means the Secretary of Commerce.

TITLE I—ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE AND CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY

SEC. 101. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the “AI for Consumer Product Safety Act”.

SEC. 102. PILOT PROGRAM FOR USE OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE BY CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY COMMISSION.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Consumer Product Safety Commission shall establish a pilot program to explore the use of artificial intelligence by the Commission in support of the consumer product safety mission of the Commission.

(b) REQUIREMENTS.—In conducting the pilot program established under subsection (a), the Commission shall do the following:

(1) Use artificial intelligence for at least 1 of the following purposes:

(A) Tracking trends with respect to injuries involving consumer products.

(B) Identifying consumer product hazards.

(C) Monitoring the retail marketplace (including internet websites) for the sale of recalled consumer products (including both new and used products).

(D) Identifying consumer products required by section 17(a) of the Consumer Product Safety Act (15 U.S.C. 2066(a)) to be refused admission into the customs territory of the United States.

(2) Consult with the following:

(A) Technologists, data scientists, and experts in artificial intelligence and machine learning.

(B) Cybersecurity experts.

(C) Members of the retail industry.

(D) Consumer product manufacturers.

(E) Consumer product safety organizations.

(F) Any other person the Commission considers appropriate.

(c) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 180 days after the conclusion of the pilot program established under subsection (a), the Consumer Product Safety Commission shall submit to the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate, and make publicly available on the website of the Commission, a report on the findings and data derived from such program, including whether and the extent to which the use of artificial intelligence improved the ability of the Commission to advance the consumer product safety mission of the Commission.

TITLE II—BLOCKCHAIN TECHNOLOGY INNOVATION

SEC. 201. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the “Blockchain Innovation Act”.

SEC. 202. STUDY ON BLOCKCHAIN TECHNOLOGY AND ITS USE IN CONSUMER PROTECTION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—

(1) STUDY REQUIRED.—Not later than one year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Commerce, in consultation with the Federal Trade Commission, and in consultation with the any other appropriate Federal agency the Secretary determines appropriate, shall conduct a study on current and potential use of blockchain technology in commerce and the potential benefits of blockchain technology for limiting fraud and other unfair and deceptive acts and practices.

(2) REQUIREMENTS FOR STUDY.—In conducting the study, the Secretary shall examine—

(A) trends in the commercial use of and investment in blockchain technology;

(B) best practices in facilitating public-private partnerships in blockchain technology;

(C) potential benefits and risks of blockchain technology for consumer protection;

(D) how blockchain technology can be used by industry and consumers to reduce fraud and increase the security of commercial transactions;

(E) areas in Federal regulation of blockchain technology that greater clarity would encourage domestic innovation; and

(F) any other relevant observations or recommendations related to blockchain technology and consumer protection.

(3) PUBLIC COMMENT.—In producing the study required in subsection (a)(2), the Secretary shall provide opportunity for public comment and advice relevant to the production of the study.

(b) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 6 months after the completion of the study required pursuant to subsection (a), the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the

Senate, and make publicly available on the website of the Department of Commerce, a report that contains the results of the study conducted under subsection (a).

TITLE III—DIGITAL TOKEN TAXONOMY

SEC. 301. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the “Digital Taxonomy Act”.

SEC. 302. FINDINGS.

Congress finds that—

(1) it is important that the United States remains a leader in innovation;

(2) digital tokens and blockchain technology are driving innovation and providing consumers with increased choice and convenience;

(3) the use of digital tokens and blockchain technology is likely to increase in the future;

(4) the Federal Trade Commission is responsible for protecting consumers from unfair or deceptive acts or practices, including relating to digital tokens;

(5) the Commission has previously taken action against unscrupulous companies and individuals that committed unfair or deceptive acts or practices involving digital tokens; and

(6) to bolster the Commission’s ability to enforce against unfair or deceptive acts or practices involving digital tokens, the Commission should ensure staff have appropriate training and resources to identify and pursue such cases.

SEC. 303. REPORTS ON UNFAIR OR DECEPTIVE ACTS OR PRACTICES IN TRANSACTIONS RELATING TO DIGITAL TOKENS.

Not later than one year after the date of enactment of this Act and each year thereafter until fiscal year 2024, the Federal Trade Commission shall transmit to the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate, and make publicly available on its website, a report of—

(1) any actions taken by the Commission relating to unfair or deceptive acts or practices in transactions relating to digital tokens;

(2) the Commission’s other efforts to prevent unfair or deceptive acts or practices relating to digital tokens; and

(3) any recommendations by the Commission for legislation that would improve the ability of the Commission and other relevant Federal agencies—

(A) to further protect consumers from unfair or deceptive acts or practices in the digital token marketplace; and

(B) to promote competition and promote innovation in the global digital token sector.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) and the gentleman from Florida (Mr. BILIRAKIS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New Jersey.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 3723.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New Jersey?

There was no objection.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to speak in support of H.R. 3723, the Consumer Safety

Technology Act, and I want to begin by thanking Representatives MCNERNEY and BURGESS for their leadership on this bill, which they reintroduced this Congress.

This legislation will help modernize our consumer protection agencies and encourage the use of advanced technologies, like artificial intelligence and blockchain in support of product safety and consumer protection.

These technologies can help the Consumer Product Safety Commission and the Federal Trade Commission improve their operations and more effectively carry out their mission.

Technological advances and globalization have greatly expanded the range of consumer products on the market. And as consumers shop online, more and more of these products are being shipped directly to homes. Artificial intelligence could help the CPSC oversee the increasingly complex range of products under its jurisdiction by helping to identify new injury trends and emerging hazards.

AI can also help the CPSC monitor online marketplaces for the illegal sale of recalled products. The persistence of recalled products on online third-party marketplaces is a particularly pernicious problem that puts Americans needlessly at risk.

For example, months after the dangerous Fisher-Price Rock ‘n Play and other infant inclined sleepers were recalled, a Consumer Reports investigation found that these products were still being sold on sites like Facebook Marketplace and Craigslist, even though they had been linked to dozens of infant fatalities. I am hopeful that artificial intelligence can be harnessed here to help eradicate the illegal sale of recalled products on online marketplaces.

The CPSC could also use AI to assess the risks of the growing number of imported consumer products entering our country and being sent directly to consumers.

This bill incorporates a bill originally introduced by Representative SOTO and GUTHRIE, the Blockchain Innovation Act, and a bill originally introduced by Representatives DAVIDSON and SOTO, the Digital Taxonomy Act.

As incorporated in this legislation, these bills will help identify ways blockchain technology can be used to further support consumer protection. It will also make sure that scammers and fraudsters don’t get ahead of consumers and law enforcement in the realm of blockchain and digital tokens.

Mr. Speaker, finally, I thank Ranking Member RODGERS and Consumer Protection and Commerce Subcommittee Ranking Member BILIRAKIS for working with us to move this bill; and as always, to the chairwoman of the subcommittee, the gentlewoman from Illinois (Ms. SCHAKOWSKY).

Mr. Speaker, I call on my colleagues to support this measure, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 3723, the Consumer Safety Technology Act.

I thank Representatives BURGESS, MCNERNEY, GUTHRIE, SOTO, and DAVIDSON for their leadership on this effort and, of course, our chairman and our ranking member, and our ranking member on the subcommittee, as well as the chairman of the subcommittee.

Mr. Speaker, the bipartisan bill directs the Consumer Product Safety Commission to conduct a pilot program to determine how artificial intelligence may be used to advance the agency’s product safety mission.

Given the agency’s broad jurisdiction over so many consumer products, efficiently and accurately analyzing data in the marketplace is critical to its effective operation.

This bill also includes an important study of how blockchain technology may be used to prevent fraud, increase privacy, and bolster our Nation’s supply chain. This is complementary to the American COMPETE Act that also prioritizes this emerging technology to ensure America leads in the technology and in its development.

Furthermore, H.R. 3723 also focuses on digital tokens, which are seeing increased adoption by consumers. The bill targets ways in which we can protect consumers from fraud in the digital token marketplace, a dangerous trend that has recently become more apparent.

Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleagues for their important work on this particular piece of legislation, and I urge all my colleagues to support this bill.

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Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. MCNERNEY), who is the prime sponsor of this bill.

Mr. MCNERNEY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman for yielding and for recognizing this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of my legislation, H.R. 3723, the Consumer Safety Technology Act.

H.R. 3723 will encourage the use of emerging technologies, specifically artificial intelligence and blockchains, to help keep consumers safe. It will aid our consumer protection agencies with carrying out their missions.

H.R. 3723 incorporates the AI for Consumer Product Safety Act legislation that I authored with Representative BURGESS. These provisions direct the Consumer Product Safety Commission, CPSC, to establish a pilot program for the agency to use AI in furtherance of the agency’s work to protect consumers from unsafe products.

For example, the CPSC could use artificial intelligence to more quickly and efficiently identify consumer product hazards, such as exploding laptops that have faulty batteries, defective USB chargers, furniture that tips over, and unsafe infant sleeping products.

Being able to identify these hazards more quickly will enable the CPSC to

help also recall products more quickly and, in turn, help save lives.

We have heard firsthand from CPSC commissioners when they testified before the House Energy and Commerce Committee that artificial intelligence can benefit the agency's work in serving the American people.

I am pleased that last year my legislation, the AI in Government Act, was enacted into law. Among other things, the AI in Government Act establishes an AI Center of Excellence to facilitate adoption of AI technology in the Federal Government. This will provide a central resource within the government to aid agencies with AI adoption and help agencies share best practices.

But it is also critical that agencies build up their capacity internally to adopt AI technology. H.R. 3723 will empower the CPSC to do just that. The CPSC's experience here will also serve as an example for other agencies that are looking to integrate AI in furtherance of their agency's missions.

H.R. 3723 also incorporates the Blockchain Innovation Act introduced by Representative SOTO and GUTHRIE. These provisions will help ensure that we use the benefits of blockchain technology to help stop scams and fraud.

Additionally, H.R. 3723 incorporates the Digital Taxonomy Act from Representatives SOTO and DAVIDSON. These provisions will help ensure the scammers and fraudsters don't get ahead of consumers and law enforcement in the realm of blockchain and digital tokens.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Representatives BURGESS, SOTO, GUTHRIE, and DAVIDSON for their work in H.R. 3723, and Chairman PALLONE and Ranking Member RODGERS for helping to move this important bill. Mr. Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to support it.

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BURGESS).

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the legislation with Representative MCNERNEY, H.R. 3723, the Consumer Safety Technology Act.

You know, over my time in the Energy and Commerce Committee, I have made several trips out to the CPSC and observed firsthand how the men and women dedicate their lives to ensuring that consumers have safe products, that consumers have products that are not going to cause harm to the user.

And as we approach the anniversary of our Nation's independence on July 4, I also have a lot of respect for these same individuals who ensure that our fireworks that are sold at the commercial stands at the side of the road also meet certain specifications.

So as we approach Independence Day, it is always a good time to acknowledge the work done by the men and women in the Consumer Product Safety Commission.

The bill we are talking about today actually passed the last Congress by a voice vote, but it did fail to advance in the United States Senate. It includes

the bill that Mr. MCNERNEY and I introduced, the Artificial Intelligence for Consumer Product Safety legislation, along with, as referenced, the Blockchain Innovation Act and the Digital Taxonomy Act.

We are once again considering this bill because this is commonsense legislation that should be signed into law to improve and modernize our consumer protection agencies.

The Consumer Product Safety Commission has jurisdiction over 15,000 consumer products. Many of these are purchased online without the consumer reviewing or assessing the product in person. Throughout the time of the pandemic, Americans have sought to fulfill their needs through online shopping, and many companies and small businesses have innovated products to further increase convenience of daily life. The pool of products available to consumers is continually expanding, putting further strain on the Consumer Product Safety Commission to ensure the safety of those products.

While technological advances are increasing the number of types of products available for consumption, the Consumer Product Safety Commission can employ advanced technology to assist in that mission.

This bill directs the Consumer Safety Product Commission to establish a pilot program to use artificial intelligence for tracking injury trends, identifying consumer product hazards, monitoring the retail marketplace for the sale of recalled products, or identifying unsafe imported consumer products.

It is safe to say that when the Consumer Product Safety Commission was created, no one anticipated the sheer volume of material that would be being imported, for which they now have responsibility.

Artificial intelligence uses algorithms to quickly automate human functions and to filter and analyze data. Artificial intelligence is already advancing capabilities in multiple sectors to better serve consumers by increasing capacity and enhancing outcomes. As artificial intelligence advances, it should be capable of helping predict fail rates and identifying problems in consumer products before they can significantly impact the market.

If we want the United States to stay ahead of China and other global competitors, we must advance and utilize artificial intelligence in all appropriate products and processes. I can think of no better place to implement these capabilities than in the protection of products used every single day by American consumers.

Mr. Speaker, I urge colleagues to support this bill. Again, it passed the last Congress in a voice vote. We should advance it today.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. SOTO), another sponsor of the bill from the Energy and Commerce Committee.

Mr. SOTO. Mr. Speaker, I thank Chairman PALLONE, Chairwoman SCHAKOWSKY, Representative MCNERNEY, Ranking Member RODGERS, Ranking Member BILIRAKIS, and Representative GUTHRIE for bringing forward these key bills on technology.

Emerging technologies like artificial intelligence, blockchain technologies, and cryptocurrency are playing a growing importance in our daily lives and are going to be an economic driver for the 21st century economy.

Blockchain, in essence, is a fixed ledger. Once you add data or a transaction, it cannot be changed. Therefore, it makes the data have integrity and makes sure that, as we are doing transactions and adding data over the internet, it can't be changed and that there is certainty to it. That is why it is so critical.

Then once we add AI to analyze this fixed data, we could help solve some of the largest problems that we face as a nation: healthcare, climate change, to be two examples; the delivery of personal protection equipment during a pandemic.

And, of course, cryptocurrency allows for small businesses, in particular, to provide services across the world without the transaction costs of exchanging currencies. It will help with remittances and other ways that we can modernize our economy.

It is essential that the United States continue to be a global leader in these emerging technologies to ensure our democratic values remain at the forefront of this technological development. Authoritarian regimes like China and Russia are investing heavily in these areas. It is absolutely critical for the free world to invest and to win the future in these areas.

Also, as a responsible global leader, the United States must strike the appropriate balance of providing an environment that fosters innovation while ensuring appropriate consumer protection.

That is why I am proud to work with Representative MCNERNEY on H.R. 3723. It includes parts of the Digital Taxonomy Act and all of the Blockchain Innovation Act. As many of you know, blockchain technology will be helpful in the ways we discussed already.

First, H.R. 3639, the Blockchain Innovation Act, directs the Department of Commerce, in consultation with the FCC, to conduct a study and submit to Congress a report on the state of blockchain technology in commerce, including its use to reduce fraud and increase security.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Representative GUTHRIE for cosponsoring and co-introducing this bill. This is a first step toward a long-term goal of setting up a Blockchain Center of Excellence in the Department of Commerce.

In addition, the Digital Taxonomy Act requires a similar report from the FCC to report recommendations on deceptive practices, and the relationship between the FTC, FCC, and the CFTC.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Representative DAVIDSON for his cosponsorship.

When we look at market volatility, the use of cryptocurrency for ransomware in recent attacks like the Colonial Pipeline and tax evasion, it is critical that we get in on the front end of this.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to work with Representative MCNERNEY, and I urge support for H.R. 3723.

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from Arizona (Mrs. LESKO), an important member of the Energy and Commerce full committee and also the subcommittee.

Mrs. LESKO. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Florida (Mr. BILIRAKIS) for yielding to me.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 3723, the Consumer Safety Technology Act.

This is important legislation that helps the U.S. solidify its position as a world leader in technology and innovation while protecting our constituents.

This legislation builds on the American COMPETE Act, which sought to remove burdensome regulatory barriers to promote American innovation and consider how safely using artificial intelligence can transform the future.

This is also a critical step in maintaining our global competitive edge in emerging technologies over foreign adversaries like China. It will make us less reliant on these bad actors for important technologies.

The Consumer Safety and Technology Act establishes a pilot program to explore how to safely use artificial intelligence to protect consumers from unsafe products while advancing cutting-edge American innovation.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to gentlewoman from Illinois (Ms. SCHAKOWSKY), the chairwoman of the subcommittee.

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the authors of this bipartisan legislation, Representatives MCNERNEY, BURGESS, SOTO, GUTHRIE, and DAVIDSON.

Mr. Speaker, the Federal Government should put the incredible technological innovation of the last few years to work for the American people, and that is exactly what this bill does. It promotes the use of artificial intelligence in product safety and studies how blockchain can protect consumers.

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Regulators will be stronger and the American consumer safer when we consider how these technologies can help them achieve this mission.

Part of the mission of the Federal Trade Commission is to protect consumers from unfair and deceptive business practices. It is important to keep track of any such practices in the digital token ecosystem where unscrupulous businesspeople may be seeking to take advantage of the vast wealth created by digital tokens. This bill directs

the Federal Trade Commission to report on its work keeping users of the digital token system safe.

Emerging technologies pose both perils and promise. That is why we must direct Federal agencies to make sure that consumers are safe.

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I have no other speakers.

Mr. Speaker, this is a very important bill. We have to get it past the finish line this time. I urge all of my colleagues to support this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I also urge support for this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3723.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. ROSENDALE. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 3(s) of House Resolution 8, the yeas and nays are ordered.

Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion are postponed.

SAFE SLEEP FOR BABIES ACT OF 2021

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3182) to provide that inclined sleepers for infants and crib bumpers shall be considered banned hazardous products under section 8 of the Consumer Product Safety Act, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 3182

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Safe Sleep for Babies Act of 2021”.

SEC. 2. BANNING OF INCLINED SLEEPERS FOR INFANTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, inclined sleepers for infants, regardless of the date of manufacture, shall be considered a banned hazardous product under section 8 of the Consumer Product Safety Act (15 U.S.C. 2057).

(b) INCLINED SLEEPER FOR INFANTS DEFINED.—In this section, the term “inclined sleeper for infants” means a product with an inclined sleep surface greater than ten degrees that is intended, marketed, or designed to provide sleeping accommodations for an infant up to 1 year old.

SEC. 3. BANNING OF CRIB BUMPERS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, crib bumpers, regardless of the date of manufacture, shall be considered a banned hazardous product under section 8 of the Consumer Product Safety Act (15 U.S.C. 2057).

(b) CRIB BUMPER DEFINED.—In this section, the term “crib bumper”—

(1) means any material that is intended to cover the sides of a crib to prevent injury to any crib occupant from impacts against the side of a crib or to prevent partial or complete access to any openings in the sides of a crib to prevent a crib occupant from getting any part of the body entrapped in any opening;

(2) includes a padded crib bumper, a supported and unsupported vinyl bumper guard, and vertical crib slat covers; and

(3) does not include a non-padded mesh crib liner.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) and the gentleman from Florida (Mr. BILIRAKIS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New Jersey.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 3182.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New Jersey?

There was no objection.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to speak in support of H.R. 3182, the Safe Sleep for Babies Act.

This important piece of legislation was reintroduced this Congress by Vice Chair CÁRDENAS and Chair SCHAKOWSKY of our Consumer Protection and Commerce Subcommittee.

Parents and caregivers deserve the peace of mind that any infant sleep product they buy is consistent with longstanding safe sleep recommendations that babies should only sleep on their backs on a firm, flat surface free of extra bedding.

This legislation would ban two very dangerous products for babies that defy safe sleep best practices and have tragically taken far too many infant lives: inclined sleepers and crib bumpers. To date, inclined sleepers have been linked to at least 94 infant fatalities, and crib bumpers have contributed to at least 107 deaths.

Inclined sleepers position babies on a dangerous incline that can lead to the baby's airway becoming obstructed, among other hazard patterns. Crib bumpers create unnecessary suffocation, entrapment, and strangulation risks for babies.

There is simply no reason either of these products should still be on the market. Yet, incline sleepers and crib bumpers are heavily marketed and remain widely available online and on store shelves. Many parents, grandparents, and caregivers continue to purchase these products, wholly unaware of the grave risks they pose to babies.

Since April 2019, when Consumer Reports first reported on the deadly toll of infant inclined products, an independent expert hired by the CPSC has confirmed that all sleep products with inclines greater than 10 degrees pose serious dangers to infants.