

Stevenson, Todd A.

25

*Handwritten signature/initials*

From: Lisa Cooley [Lcooley@acerefrigeration.com]  
Sent: Monday, October 09, 2000 11:16 AM  
To: cpsc-os@cpsc.gov  
Subject: Petition HP00-4 Petition to ban baby bath seats

October 9, 2000

Office of the Secretary  
Consumer Product Safety Commission  
Washington, D.C. 20207

RE: Comments on Petition (HP 00-4) by CFA et. al. seeking a Ban of Baby Bath Seats Federal Register: August 22, 2000 (Volume 65, Number 163, page 50968)

The undersigned citizen strongly urges you to grant the petition of the Consumer Federation of America et. al. to ban baby bath seats. We are alarmed at the high incidence of babies drowning in this product and believe it poses an unreasonable risk of injury and death to children. At least 66 children have died when using this product and an additional 37 were involved in near drownings involving bath seats. Already in the first six months of this year at least five babies have died.

Bath seats have a very short useful life. They are not recommended for use until six months of age, when most infants can sit securely. Once an infant can pull up (generally between seven and nine months) or attempt to stand while holding onto objects, infant bath seats should be discontinued, thus limiting its useful life to approximately two months. Recent research has found that parents and caregivers of infants that use baby bath seats engage in more risk taking behavior than parents and caretakers not using bath seats. Parents and caregivers may see this product as a safety device and thereby have a false sense of security with respect to its use. In addition, bath seats are incompatible with bathtubs meeting the current voluntary standard for bathtub slip resistance. For these reasons and the growing number of drowning deaths, we believe there is substantial evidence supporting a ban of this product.

Please vote to grant the petition of CFA and the other petitioning organizations. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Lisa Cooley  
4201 33rd Avenue SW, Cedar Rapids, IA 52404  
319-390-9783

  
Stevenson, Todd A.

*bath seats*  
*26*

**From:** Cristina\_Hurley@rsmi.com  
**Sent:** Monday, October 09, 2000 12:40 PM  
**To:** cpsc-os@cpsc.gov  
**Subject:** PETITION TO BAN BABY BATH SEATS

October 9, 2000

Office of the Secretary  
Consumer Product Safety Commission  
Washington, D.C. 20207

RE: Comments on Petition (HP 00-4) by CFA et. al. seeking a Ban of Baby Bath Seats Federal Register: August 22, 2000 (Volume 65, Number 163, page 50968)

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Bath seats have a very short useful life. They are not recommended for use until six months of age, when most infants can sit securely. Once an infant can pull up (generally between seven and nine months) or attempt to stand while holding onto objects, infant bath seats should be discontinued, thus limiting its useful life to approximately two months.

Recent research has found that parents and caregivers of infants who use baby bath seats engage in more risk taking behavior than parents and caretakers not using bath seats. Parents and caregivers may see this product as a safety device and thereby have a false sense of security with respect to its use. In addition, bath seats are incompatible with bathtubs meeting the current voluntary standard for bathtub slip resistance.

For these reasons and the growing number of drowning deaths, we believe there is substantial evidence supporting a ban of this product.

Please vote to grant the petition of CFA and the other petitioning organizations. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Cristina McCormick Hurley  
7272 19 Avenue  
Van Horne, IA 52346  
319-896-5415

Stevenson, Todd A

*Baby bath seats*

27

From: mdhanush [MDhanush@email.msn.com]  
Sent: Tuesday, October 10, 2000 5:06 AM  
To: cpsc-os@cpsc.gov  
Subject: Comments on Petition (HP 00-4)

The undersigned citizen strongly urges you to grant the petition of the Consumer Federation of America et. al. to ban baby bath seats. We are alarmed at the high incidence of babies drowning in this product and believe it poses an unreasonable risk of injury and death to children. At least 66 children have died when using this product and an additional 37 were involved in near drownings involving bath seats. Already in the first six months of this year at least five babies have died.

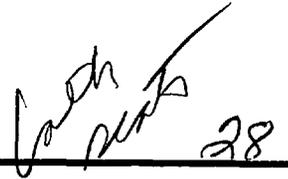
Bath seats have a very short useful life. They are not recommended for use until six months of age, when most infants can sit securely. Once an infant can pull up (generally between seven and nine months) or attempt to stand while holding onto objects, infant bath seats should be discontinued, thus limiting its useful life to approximately two months. Recent research has found that parents and caregivers of infants that use baby bath seats engage in more risk taking behavior than parents and caretakers not using bath seats. Parents and caregivers may see this product as a safety device and thereby have a false sense of security with respect to its use. In addition, bath seats are incompatible with bathtubs meeting the current voluntary standard for bathtub slip resistance. For these reasons and the growing number of drowning deaths, we believe there is substantial evidence supporting a ban of this product.

Please vote to grant the petition of CFA and the other petitioning organizations. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Meenakshi Dhanushkodi  
4001 South Watt Ave,  
Apt 210, Sacramento, CA, 95826  
916-369-1192

  
Stevenson, Todd A.

  
28

From: Dixie\_Derby@rsmi.com  
Sent: Tuesday, October 10, 2000 9:27 AM  
To: cpsc-os@cpsc.gov  
Subject: PETITION TO BAN BABY BATH SEATS

Office of the Secretary  
Consumer Product Safety Commission  
Washington, DC. 20207

RE: Comments on Petition (HP 00-4) by CFA et. al. seeking a Ban of Baby Bath Seats Federal Register: August 22, 2000 (Volume 65, Number 163, page 50968)

Dear Sir or Madam,

My name is Dixie Derby, I am a mother of 2 and a close friend to Stephanie Turner, who lost her daughter to this bath seat. I extend concern for the need

for more research on this product. Not only is it taking the lives of our young, but destroying families and the future. These children are our future. Parents expect when they use child restraining seats of any sort that they are

tested and tested very well. I ask you this: Would you want this to happen to one of your child(ren), grandchild(ren), neices, nephews, or any other child? I would hope not.

Here is some information .

On July 25, 2000 CFA (The Consumer Federation of America) filed a new petition asking the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) to ban baby bath seats. Since the filing many other organizations have joined to support the petition, with more and more organizations concerned with the safety of children joining every day.

Original Petitioners:  
Consumer Federation of America  
The Drowning Prevention Foundation  
The Danny Foundation for Crib and Child Product Safety  
The Inter-mountain Injury Control Research Center  
The California Coalition for Children's Safety and Health  
The California Drowning Prevention Network  
The Contra Costa County Childhood Injury Prevention Coalition  
Greater Sacramento SAFE KIDS Coalition  
Kids in Danger

Some of the Additional Organizations Supporting the Petition:  
US. Public Interest Research Organization  
Consumers Union  
The Good Housekeeping Institute

\*\*\*\*\*

About The Product: Baby bath seats are intended to assist in bathing infants by holding the infant in a sitting position , upright out of the water

,in  
a full size bathtub or a sink.

When following manufacturers' instructions, they have a useful life developmentally of about 2 months.

\*\*\*\*\*

The Hazard: There are currently at least 66 known drowning deaths and 37

reports of near drowning. In the first six months of 2000 alone there have been five deaths. In past years there have been an average of 8 deaths per year. Drowning occurs when the baby slips out of the seat, the seat tips over, or where the parent is unable to extricate the child from the product after it has tipped over. The product gives parents a false sense of security; they view this product as a safety device, when in fact, it does not perform that way. The bath seat is designed to provide "hands-free bathing " of an infant, but in reality the parent/caregivers hands should never leave the seat. Bath seats are also completely incompatible with bathtubs that meet the voluntary safety standard for bathtubs. Such bathtubs must have a slip resistant feature to prevent falls; bath seat product instructional labeling warns not to use to the product in such bathtubs. CPSC considered this issue in 1994 and decided in a 2-1 vote not to take action. Since that vote, 52 more babies have died and one of the 2 commissioners voting against action has been replaced.

CPSC Comment Period: There is currently a public comment period on the petition seeking input from the public. The deadline for comments to CPSC is October 23, 2000.

\*\*\*\*\*

I thank you very much for your time,

Dixie Derby  
1616 B Ave NE  
Cedar Rapids, Ia 52402

\*\*\*\*\*

\*\*\*\*\*

As most of you are aware on June 9, 2000 my 7-month daughter, Olivia Jade Gardner died 24 hours after nearly drowning in a 'Safety First' baby bath seat.

I have since learned about and become involved with a movement to ban the bath seats. The following contains information about the movement as well as an action item with a link provided to the address of the CPSC ( Consumer Product & Safety Commission ) where you can email a letter in support of the ban if you so desire. I would very much appreciate you taking the time to find out more about what is going on with these bath seats and am thanking you ahead of time for your time and support. In 1994 , after 14 infant deaths , an attempt was made to ban these bath seats . CPSC voted against taking any action 2-1. I cannot stop thinking that if that 1994 petition had only been successful, Olivia , along with the 51 additional babies that have died since its failure would be alive today.

\*\*\*\*\*

ACTION: THIS IS THE MOST IMPORTANT PART , AS THIS IS HOW YOU CAN HELP!!!!!!!!!!

\*\*\*\*\*

The way you can help to make this ban a successful is two-fold.

First of all by sending an email to the Consumer Product Safety Commission in support of the ban . Their address is [cpsc-os@cpsc.gov](mailto:cpsc-os@cpsc.gov) <<mailto:cpsc-os@cpsc.gov>> . Emails regarding the ban should contain 'Petition HP 00-4, Petition to Ban Bath Seats' in the subject field.

Secondly, I would very much appreciate you forwarding this to everyone you know who may be interesting in helping to remove these products from the shelves.

Thank-you & God Bless

Stephanie Turner  
319 896-5400 Work  
319 286-0194 Home

\*\*\*\*\*

*bathtubs* 29

October 4, 2000

Office of the Secretary  
Consumer Product Safety Commission  
Washington, D.C. 20207

RECEIVED BY THE SECRETARY  
2000 OCT 11 A 10: 51

RE: Comments on Petition (HP 00-4) by CFA et. al. seeking a Ban of Baby Bath Seats Federal Register:  
August 22, 2000 (Volume 65, Number 163, page 50968)

The undersigned citizen strongly urges you to grant the petition of the Consumer Federation of America et. al. to ban baby bath seats. We are alarmed at the high incidence of babies drowning in this product and believe it poses an unreasonable risk of injury and death to children. At least 66 children have died when using this product and an additional 37 were involved in near drownings involving bath seats. Already in the first six months of this year at least five babies have died.

Bath seats have a very short useful life. They are not recommended for use until six months of age, when most infants can sit securely. Once an infant can pull up (generally between seven and nine months) or attempt to stand while holding onto objects, infant bath seats should be discontinued, thus limiting its useful life to approximately two months. Recent research has found that parents and caregivers of infants that use baby bath seats engage in more risk taking behavior than parents and caretakers not using bath seats. Parents and caregivers may see this product as a safety device and thereby have a false sense of security with respect to its use. In addition, bath seats are incompatible with bathtubs meeting the current voluntary standard for bathtub slip resistance. For these reasons and the growing number of drowning deaths, we believe there is substantial evidence supporting a ban of this product.

Please vote to grant the petition of CFA and the other petitioning organizations. Thank you.

Sincerely,



Suzanne Barloon

711 Grant Street

Walker, IA 52352

319-448-4142

Stevenson, Todd A

*Grant  
Reed*  
30

From: barger.jf@pg.com  
Sent: Wednesday, October 11, 2000 6:46 AM  
To: cpsc-os@cpsc.gov  
Subject: 'Petition HP 00-4, Petition to Ban Bath Seats'

October 11, 2000

Office of the Secretary  
Consumer Product Safety Commission  
Washington, D.C. 20207

RE: Comments on Petition (HP 00-4) by CFA et. al. seeking a Ban of Baby Bath Seats Federal Register: August 22, 2000 (Volume 65, Number 163, page 50968)

The undersigned citizen strongly urges you to grant the petition of the Consumer Federation of America et. al. to ban baby bath seats. We are alarmed at the high incidence of babies drowning in this product and believe it poses an unreasonable risk of injury and death to children. At least 66 children have died when using this product and an additional 37 were involved in near drownings involving bath seats. Already in the first six months of this year at least five babies have died.

INCLUDING MY NIECE, OLIVIA JADE GARDNER!

Bath seats have a very short useful life. They are not recommended for use until six months of age, when most infants can sit securely. Once an infant can pull up (generally between seven and nine months) or attempt to stand while holding onto objects, infant bath seats should be discontinued, thus limiting its useful life to approximately two months. Recent research has found that parents and caregivers of infants that use baby bath seats engage in more risk taking behavior than parents and caretakers not using bath seats. Parents and caregivers may see this product as a safety device and thereby have a false sense of security with respect to its use. In addition, bath seats are incompatible with bathtubs meeting the current voluntary standard for bathtub slip resistance. For these reasons and the growing number of drowning deaths, we believe there is substantial evidence supporting a ban of this product.

Please vote to grant the petition of CFA and the other petitioning organizations. Thank you.

Sincerely,

James F. Barger  
2238 Chandler St. SW  
Cedar Rapids Iowa 52404  
barger.jf@pg.com  
(319)363-1316

*bath seats*

*.31*

Stevenson, Todd A.

**From:** kpcollin@collins.rockwell.com  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 11, 2000 11:14 AM  
**To:** cpsc-os@cpsc.gov  
**Subject:** Baby Bath Seats

The undersigned citizen strongly urges you to grant the petition of the Consumer Federation of America et. al. to ban baby bath seats. We are alarmed at the high incidence of babies drowning in this product and believe it poses an unreasonable risk of injury and death to children. At least 66 children have died when using this product and an additional 37 were involved in near drownings involving bath seats. Already in the first six months of this year at least five babies have died.

Bath seats have a very short useful life. They are not recommended for use until six months of age, when most infants can sit securely. Once an infant can pull up (generally between seven and nine months) or attempt to stand while holding onto objects, infant bath seats should be discontinued, thus limiting its useful life to approximately two months. Recent research has found that parents and caregivers of infants that use baby bath seats engage in more risk taking behavior than parents and caretakers not using bath seats. Parents and caregivers may see this product as a safety device and thereby have a false sense of security with respect to its use. In addition, bath seats are incompatible with bathtubs meeting the current voluntary standard for bathtub slip resistance. For these reasons and the growing number of drowning deaths, we believe there is substantial evidence supporting a ban of this product.

Please vote to grant the petition of CFA and the other petitioning organizations. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Kelly Collins  
1706 Hamer Drive NW  
Cedar Rapids IA  
52405  
319 390-4616

*Stevenson, Todd A.*

32  
*Bath seats*

From: Sweet, Kelly [Kelly.Sweet@co.linn.ia.us]  
Sent: Thursday, October 12, 2000 4:49 PM  
To: 'cpsc-os@cpsc.gov'

October 12, 2000

Office of the Secretary  
Consumer Product Safety Commission  
Washington, D.C. 20207

RE: Comments on Petition (HP 00-4) by CFA et. al. seeking a Ban of Baby  
Bath Seats Federal Register: August 22, 2000 (Volume 65, Number 163,  
page 50968)

The undersigned citizen strongly urges you to grant the petition of the Consumer Federation of America et. al. to ban baby bath seats. We are alarmed at the high incidence of babies drowning in this product and believe it poses an unreasonable risk of injury and death to children. At least 66 children have died when using this product and an additional 37 were involved in near drownings involving bath seats. Already in the first six months of this year at least five babies have died.

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Please vote to grant the petition of CFA and the other petitioning organizations. Thank you.

Sincerely,

> Kelly Sweet  
> 1000 E Ave NW  
> 319-364-4650

~~Stevenson, Todd A.~~

*Kath  
grab*

33

From: Steve Moshier [steve.moshier@wcom.com]  
Sent: Thursday, October 12, 2000 4:54 PM  
To: cpsc-os@cpsc.gov  
Cc: Steve Moshier; Moshier Steven  
Subject: 'Petition HP 00-4, Petition to Ban Bath Seats'

October 12, 2000

Office of the Secretary  
Consumer Product Safety Commission  
Washington, D.C. 20207

RE: Comments on Petition (HP 00-4) by CFA et. al. seeking a Ban of Baby Bath Seats Federal Register: August 22, 2000 (Volume 65, Number 163, page 50968)

The undersigned citizen strongly urges you to grant the petition of the Consumer Federation of America et. al. to ban baby bath seats. We are alarmed at the high incidence of babies drowning in this product and believe it poses an unreasonable risk of injury and death to children. At least 66 children have died when using this product and an additional 37 were involved in near drowning involving bath seats. Already in the first six months of this year at least five babies have died.

Bath seats have a very short useful life. They are not recommended for use until six months of age, when most infants can sit securely. Once an infant can pull up (generally between seven and nine months) or attempt to stand while holding onto objects, infant bath seats should be discontinued, thus limiting its useful life to approximately two months. Recent research has found that parents and caregivers of infants that use baby bath seats engage in more risk taking behavior than parents and caretakers not using bath seats. Parents and caregivers may see this product as a safety device and thereby have a false sense of security with respect to its use. In addition, bath seats are incompatible with bathtubs meeting the current voluntary standard for bathtub slip resistance. For these reasons and the growing number of drowning deaths, we believe there is substantial evidence supporting a ban of this product.

Please vote to grant the petition of CFA and the other petitioning organizations. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Steven Moshier  
1835 39th Street  
(319) 373-1931



Stevenson, Todd A.



34

**From:** Debra Lewis [Debra-Lewis@uiowa.edu]  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 12, 2000 6:10 PM  
**To:** cpsc-os@cpsc.gov  
**Subject:** Petition HP 00-4, Petition to Ban Bath  
October 12, 2000

Office of the Secretary  
Consumer Product Safety Commission  
Washington, D.C. 20207

RE: Comments on Petition (HP 00-4) by CFA et. al. seeking a Ban of Baby  
Bath Seats Federal Register: August 22, 2000 (Volume 65, Number 163,  
page 50968)

The undersigned citizen strongly urges you to grant the petition  
of the Consumer Federation of America et. al. to ban  
baby bath seats. We are alarmed at the high incidence of babies  
drowning in this product and believe it poses an unreasonable risk of  
injury and death to children. At least 66 children have died when using  
this product and an additional 37 were involved in near drownings  
involving bath seats. Already in the first six months of this year at  
least five babies have died.

Bath seats have a very short useful life. They are not recommended for  
use until six months of age, when most infants can sit securely. Once  
an infant can pull up (generally between seven and nine months) or  
attempt to stand while holding onto objects, infant bath seats should be  
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months. Recent research has found that parents and care givers of  
infants that use baby bath seats engage in more risk taking behavior than  
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see this product as a safety device and thereby have a false sense of  
security with respect to its use. In addition, bath seats are  
incompatible with bathtubs meeting the current voluntary standard for  
bathtub slip resistance. For these reasons and the growing number of  
drowning deaths, we believe there is substantial evidence supporting a ban of  
this product.

Please vote to grant the petition of CFA and the other petitioning  
organizations. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Debra Lewis  
1609 Richmond Road NE  
Cedar Rapids, IA 52402

Stevenson, Todd A.

*Bath Seats 35*

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**From:** Maureen Foster [mfoster@gfsd.org]  
**Sent:** Friday, October 13, 2000 7:38 AM  
**To:** cpsc-os@cpsc.gov  
**Subject:** 'Petition HP 00-4, Petition to Ban Bath Seats'

Please ban Baby Bath Seats . The rate of death is alarming as too many parents think these seats keep babies safe in the tub.  
Thank you.  
Maureen Foster

Stevenson, Todd A.

*Bath  
seats*

.36

**From:** Marge Bann [MargeBann@alliant-energy.com]  
**Sent:** Friday, October 13, 2000 12:12 PM  
**To:** Cpssc-os@cpssc.gov  
**Subject:** Petition HP 00-4, Petition to Ban Bath Seats' in the subject field.

October 04, 2000

Office of the Secretary  
Consumer Product Safety Commission  
Washington, D.C. 20207

RE: Comments on Petition (HP 00-4) by CFA et. al. seeking a Ban of Baby Bath Seats Federal Register: August 22, 2000 (Volume 65, Number 163, page 50968)

The undersigned citizen strongly urges you to grant the petition

of the Consumer Federation of America et. al. to ban baby bath seats. We are alarmed at the high incidence of babies drowning in this product and believe it poses an unreasonable risk of injury and death to children. At least 66 children have died when using this product and an additional 37 were involved in near drownings involving bath seats. Already in the first six months of this year at least five babies have died.

Bath seats have a very short useful life. They are not recommended for use until six months of age, when most infants can sit securely. Once an infant can pull up (generally between seven and nine months) or attempt to stand while holding onto objects, infant bath seats should be discontinued, thus limiting its useful life to approximately two months. Recent research has found that parents and caregivers of infants that use baby bath seats engage in more risk taking behavior than parents and caretakers not using bath seats. Parents and caregivers may see this product as a safety device and thereby have a false sense of security with respect to its use. In addition, bath seats are incompatible with bathtubs meeting the current voluntary standard for bathtub slip resistance. For these reasons and the growing number of drowning deaths, we believe there is substantial evidence supporting a ban of this product.

Please vote to grant the petition of CFA and the other petitioning organizations. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Marge Bann  
7300 42nd St. NE  
Cedar Rapids, IA 52411  
H - (319) 393-4760  
W - (319) 398-4896

Stevenson, Todd A.

37  
Vater Sud

**From:** Jack Barnes [jack.barnes@wcom.com]  
**Sent:** Friday, October 13, 2000 9:32 AM  
**To:** cpsc-os@cpsc.gov  
**Cc:** Vozenilek, Beth Ann  
**Subject:** RE: Comments on Petition (HP 00-4) by CFA et. al.

Office of the Secretary  
Consumer Product Safety Commission  
Washington, D.C. 20207

RE: Comments on Petition (HP 00-4) by CFA et. al. seeking a Ban of Baby Bath Seats Federal Register: August 22, 2000 (Volume 65, Number 163, page 50968)

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Please vote to grant the petition of CFA and the other petitioning organizations. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Jack Barnes  
102 Johnson St W  
Norway, IA 52318  
319-227-2260

Stevenson, Todd A.

*Bath Seats* 38

**From:** jldougl@collins.rockwell.com  
**Sent:** Friday, October 13, 2000 10:15 AM  
**To:** cpsc-os@cpsc.gov  
**Subject:** Ban of Baby Bath Seats

October 13, 2000

Office of the Secretary  
Consumer Product Safety Commission  
Washington, D.C. 20207

RE: Comments on Petition (HP 00-4) by CFA et. al. seeking a Ban of Baby Bath Seats Federal Register: August 22, 2000 (Volume 65, Number 163, page 50968)

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Please vote to grant the petition of CFA and the other petitioning organizations. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Joy Douglas  
2650 27th Ave.  
Marion, IA 52302  
319-373-5406

Stevenson, Todd A.

29  
bath seats

From: tmmccart@collins.rockwell.com  
Sent: Friday, October 13, 2000 10:21 AM  
To: cpsc-os@cpsc.gov  
Subject: Petition HP 00-4, Petition to Ban Bath Seats

Office of the Secretary  
Consumer Product Safety Commission  
Washington, D.C. 20207

RE: Comments on Petition (HP 00-4) by CFA et. al. seeking a Ban of Baby Bath Seats Federal Register: August 22, 2000 (Volume 65, Number 163, page 50968)

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Please vote to grant the petition of CFA and the other petitioning organizations. Thank you.

Sincerely,  
Tanya McCarthy  
3037 Circle Dr NE  
Cedar Rapids, IA 52402  
319-362-8844

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY  
2000 OCT 16 P 2:29

October 14, 2000

**VIA FEDERAL EXPRESS**

Ms. Sadye E. Dunn  
Director, Office of the Secretary  
Consumer Product Safety Commission  
4330 East West Highway — Room 502  
Bethesda, MD 20814-4408

**RE: Petition HP 00-4, Petition to Ban Bath Seats**

Dear Ms. Dunn:

This letter is *in support* of the ban on bath seats (bath rings). At this writing there are only two major manufacturers of the product; others have, responsibly, gotten out of the market. The majority of the fatalities are children under 7 months. Since babies don't start sitting up unassisted until 6-7 months, these children are *barely* able to sit up unassisted! As such, they may still be somewhat unstable on dry land but even more unstable when put in water.

**Overview**

Water – in and of it self – is a clear and present danger to small children. Even experienced swimmers have had tragedies when put in situations that were no match for their expertise. The water hazard to small children is why we have pool enclosures, pool alarms, toilet locks, etc. To put a child *in* a product *in* water that deliberately gives the false sense of security that the product somehow protects the infant while in the water is *ludicrous!!* Because the product gives the *illusion* of safety ... that the child can sit up unassisted in the device and the device surrounds the child ... parents fill the bathtub with entirely too much water.

Put an adult in water and the body is somewhat buoyant. A person who holds their breath will float. A child's center of gravity is above the navel. Put a child *in* the product, put water in the tub to *above* the child's navel *or better*, and the child who lacks any weight from the navel down will be buoyant as well. The CPSC's IDIs – presented at the February 2000 ASTM meeting in Orlando, indicated that children were drowning in water in excess of 3 inches. The IDIs at the October 2000 meeting indicated the water depth in many instances was as great as 7 inches!

**ASTM Standard**

The ASTM standard for this product is *not* a safety standard, rather a *performance* standard for the product — and, like so many other standards, attempts through the

performance standard to claim that the standard is a safety standard. Such performance standards “back into” safety *only after* children are injured or die in a product. Having visited RAM Consulting and seen their “Enabling Safety” presentation, I must state as they do that if the product design is not safe, then 100% of the product produced will be unsafe! Since over 90% of CPSC’s recalls are for *design defects*, there is no way to try to patch a poorly designed product with any number of performance tests!

The *performance* test for the ASTM standard on bath rings is unrealistic and in no way approximates *real life* use of the product. The standard requires the product to be tested on a clean, smooth surface, a constant water temperature of 105 degrees, and no additives in the water. This is a *performance* test for the product, but is *not* the way in which caregivers will use the product.

- First, if the caregiver uses a cleanser (even Soft Scrub), the surface will be clean but *not* smooth. New bathtubs must meet the ASTM standard for slip-resistant surfaces and, therefore, are *not* smooth. If consumers use skid strips in their tub, the tub surface is also *not* smooth!
- There is no way for a caregiver to maintain a constant water temperature.
- More importantly, caregivers *will* use soap and/or other additives in the baby’s bath water.

Since the performance standard does *not* test the product for the way in which manufacturers *know* the product will be used, the manufacturers knowingly market a product which they *know* caregivers will “misuse”. Thus, the unsuspecting caregiver has been “set up” to misuse the product each time they put the child and product in the bathtub! Then, at the ASTM meetings the consumer is faulted repeatedly for either misuse of the product or for leaving the child unattended.

Of *crucial* importance is that there is absolutely *no* way to make this product *safe* for use by caregivers of small children. The ASTM standard for an anti-slip surface on bathtubs has been in effect for roughly 20 years. As such, the surface parents are placing these products on is *not* smooth. If the tub surface is not smooth, there is no way to get suction cups to adhere tightly to the tub surface. Thus, manufacturers have set up caregivers to misuse the product, since manufacturers know that if (i) the tub surface is not smooth and (ii) the use of additives (*e.g.*, soap) may affect how the product suctions, that there is a high probability the product will not adhere (suction) tightly to the tub surface.

#### Incident Data

At my first ASTM meeting a little over a year ago (August 1999), the meeting opened with CPSC incident data on bath rings. CPSC gave the historical perspective on the incident data associated with the product:

- When the standard was first enacted there were 18 deaths associated with the product. At the August 1999 ASTM meeting, the body count was up to 42 – up *2½ times* the *initial* death toll for the product.
- The petition for the bath ring ban – as published in the Federal Register – indicated that as of June 2000 there were 66 deaths.
- Unbelievably, by the time of the most recent ASTM meeting on October 12, the body count was now up to 74 – now over *four times* the original death toll that prompted the standard!

Even with a body count that has nearly doubled in just *one* year, the ASTM subcommittee refuses to do the *responsible* thing – voluntarily withdraw the product from the market or put internal pressure on its members to eliminate the item from its product line. Instead, they continue to blame caregivers for misuse and for leaving the child unattended. The penalty for misuse, incorrect use, leaving a child unattended in any product should not be death!

### Conclusions

The tragic and horrible irony with the ASTM standard for bath rings is that the stronger the standard gets, the more deaths that are occurring. It is *unconscionable* that a couple of major manufacturers actively protect *and defend* their company's financial/product interests, while blindly ignoring the mounting body count associated with the product! Considering that bath rings are really only designed for about a 2 month period in child's life (at best), the body count for the product is staggering. Worse yet, the death toll for the product continues to rise at an alarming rate.

A sad commentary on ASTM and voluntary standards in general is that standards are *data driven* — unless there are injuries with a product, ASTM subcommittees refuse to be proactive in addressing potential hazards raised at the meetings.

If the CPSC votes against a ban on this product, I am forced to ask “Just *how much data* will it take to *drive* the CPSC into banning the product later on? How many more lives have to be lost in that time frame?”

Enough is enough!

We've already lost *too many* children with this product in the short span of the product's history. Since the manufacturers will not voluntarily take the product off the market, and since ASTM will not force the voluntary withdrawal of the product, the CPSC *must* force the ban on the product to prevent any further needless and *senseless* loss of life from future sale of these bathing products.

I would also *strongly encourage* CPSC to recall all such items which have previously been sold! In such a recall, both the CPSC and the bath ring manufacturers need to create as high an awareness of bath ring dangers as Burger King did with the Pokemon ball! Otherwise, these products will continue to circulate in the secondary market with the same deadly consequences!

Sincerely,



Margie Cowan  
11851 Dunlop Court  
Reston, VA 20191  
mcowan@erols.com

Stevenson, Todd A.

*with  
good  
41*

From: kdbading@collins.rockwell.com  
Sent: Monday, October 16, 2000 4:11 PM  
To: cpsc-os@cpsc.gov  
Subject: Petition HP 00-4, Petition to Ban Bath Seats

October 16, 2000

Office of the Secretary  
Consumer Product Safety Commission  
Washington, D.C. 20207

RE: Comments on Petition (HP 00-4) by CFA et. al. seeking a Ban of Baby Bath Seats Federal Register: August 22, 2000 (Volume 65, Number 163, page 50968)

The undersigned citizen strongly urges you to grant the petition

of the Consumer Federation of America et. al. to ban baby bath seats. We are alarmed at the high incidence of babies drowning in this product and believe it poses an unreasonable risk of injury and death to children. At least 66 children have died when using this product and an additional 37 were involved in near drownings involving bath seats. Already in the first six months of this year at least five babies have died.

Bath seats have a very short useful life. They are not recommended for use until six months of age, when most infants can sit securely. Once an infant can pull up (generally between seven and nine months) or attempt to stand while holding onto objects, infant bath seats should be discontinued, thus limiting its useful life to approximately two months. Recent research has found that parents and caregivers of infants that use baby bath seats engage in more risk taking behavior than parents and caretakers not using bath seats. Parents and caregivers may see this product as a safety device and thereby have a false sense of security with respect to its use. In addition, bath seats are incompatible with bathtubs meeting the current voluntary standard for bathtub slip resistance. For these reasons and the growing number of drowning deaths, we believe there is substantial evidence supporting a ban of this product.

Please vote to grant the petition of CFA and the other petitioning organizations. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Karen Bading  
818 Oakland Rd. NE  
Cedar Rapids, IA 52402  
(319) 295-0839

~~Stevenson, Todd A.~~

*Bath  
Seats 42*

**From:** jdmosins@collins.rockwell.com  
**Sent:** Monday, October 16, 2000 9:49 AM  
**To:** cpsc-os@cpsc.gov  
**Subject:** Petition HP 00-4, Petition to Ban Bath Seats

October 16, 2000

Office of the Secretary  
Consumer Product Safety Commission  
Washington, D.C. 20207

RE: Comments on Petition (HP 00-4) by CFA et. al. seeking a Ban of Baby Bath Seats Federal Register: August 22, 2000 (Volume 65, Number 163, page 50968)

The undersigned citizen strongly urges you to grant the petition

of the Consumer Federation of America et. al. to ban baby bath seats. We are alarmed at the high incidence of babies drowning in this product and believe it poses an unreasonable risk of injury and death to children. At least 66 children have died when using this product and an additional 37 were involved in near drownings involving bath seats. Already in the first six months of this year at least five babies have died.

Bath seats have a very short useful life. They are not recommended for use until six months of age, when most infants can sit securely. Once an infant can pull up (generally between seven and nine months) or attempt to stand while holding onto objects, infant bath seats should be discontinued, thus limiting its useful life to approximately two months. Recent research has found that parents and caregivers of infants that use baby bath seats engage in more risk taking behavior than parents and caretakers not using bath seats. Parents and caregivers may see this product as a safety device and thereby have a false sense of security with respect to its use. In addition, bath seats are incompatible with bathtubs meeting the current voluntary standard for bathtub slip resistance. For these reasons and the growing number of drowning deaths, we believe there is substantial evidence supporting a ban of this product.

Please vote to grant the petition of CFA and the other petitioning organizations. Thank you.

Sincerely,

John D. Mosinski  
3037 Circle Drive N. E.  
Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52402  
(319) 362-8844

*Stevenson, Todd A.*

43

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**From:** Jodi Custer [jodi\_custer@globalcrossing.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, October 16, 2000 10:16 AM  
**To:** 'cpssc-os@cpssc.gov'  
**Subject:** cpssc-os@cpssc.gov October 04, 2000  
October 16, 2000

Office of the Secretary  
Consumer Product Safety Commission  
Washington, D.C. 20207

RE: Comments on Petition (HP 00-4) by CFA et. al. seeking a Ban of Baby  
Bath Seats Federal Register: August 22, 2000 (Volume 65, Number 163, page 50968)

The undersigned citizen strongly urges you to grant the petition of the Consumer Federation of America et. al. to ban baby bath seats. We are alarmed at the high incidence of babies drowning in this product and believe it poses an unreasonable risk of injury and death to children. At least 66 children have died when using this product and an additional 37 were involved in near drownings involving bath seats. Already in the first six months of this year at least five babies have died.

Bath seats have a very short useful life. They are not recommended for use until six months of age, when most infants can sit securely. Once an infant can pull up (generally between seven and nine months) or attempt to stand while holding onto objects, infant bath seats should be discontinued, thus limiting its useful life to approximately two months. Recent research has found that parents and caregivers of infants that use baby bath seats engage in more risk taking behavior than parents and caretakers not using bath seats. Parents and caregivers may see this product as a safety device and thereby have a false sense of security with respect to its use. In addition, bath seats are incompatible with bathtubs meeting the current voluntary standard for bathtub slip resistance. For these reasons and the growing number of drowning deaths, we believe there is substantial evidence supporting a ban of this product.

Please vote to grant the petition of CFA and the other petitioning organizations. Thank you.

Sincerely,

> Jodi Custer  
> 1039 32<sup>nd</sup> St. NE, Cedar Rapids, IA 52402  
  
> 319-365-4991  
>

Stevenson, Todd A.

*Bath seats 44*

**From:** Connie\_Echternacht@nas.adp.com  
**Sent:** Monday, October 16, 2000 10:55 AM  
**To:** cpssc-os@cpssc.gov  
**Subject:** Petition HP 00-4, Petition to Ban Bath Seats

October 16, 2000

Office of the Secretary  
Consumer Product Safety Commission  
Washington, D.C. 20207

RE: Comments on Petition (HP 00-4) by CFA et. al. seeking a Ban of Baby Bath Seats, Federal Register: August 22, 2000 (Volume 65, Number 163, page 50968)

The undersigned citizen strongly urges you to grant the petition of the Consumer Federation of America et. al. to ban baby bath seats. We are alarmed at the high incidence of babies drowning in this product and believe it poses an unreasonable risk of injury and death to children. At least 66 children have died when using this product and an additional 37 were involved in near drownings involving bath seats. Already in the first six months of this year at least five babies have died.

Bath seats have a very short useful life. They are not recommended for use until six months of age, when most infants can sit securely. Once an infant can pull up (generally between seven and nine months) or attempt to stand while holding onto objects, infant bath seats should be discontinued, thus limiting its useful life to approximately two months.

Recent research has found that parents and caregivers of infants that use baby bath seats engage in more risk taking behavior than parents and caretakers not using bath seats. Parents and caregivers may see this product as a safety device and thereby have a false sense of security with respect to its use.

In addition, bath seats are incompatible with bathtubs meeting the current voluntary standard for bathtub slip resistance. For these reasons and the growing number of drowning deaths, we believe there is substantial evidence supporting a ban of this product.

Please vote to grant the petition of CFA and the other petitioning organizations. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Connie Echternacht  
8746 Flamingo Drive  
Chanhassen, MN 55317  
(952) 361-0053

~~Stevenson, Todd A.~~

*Wash  
seats 45*

**From:** Jaime L. Jasper [jaimejasper@hotmail.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, October 16, 2000 9:10 PM  
**To:** cpsc-os@cpsc.gov  
**Subject:** Banning of baby bath seats

October 16, 2000

Office of the Secretary Consumer Product Safety Commission Washington, D.C.  
20207  
RE: Comments on Petition (HP 00-4) by CFA et. al. seeking a Ban of Baby Bath  
Seats Federal Register: August 22, 2000 (Volume 65, Number 163, page 50968)

The undersigned citizen strongly urges you to grant the petition of the Consumer Federation of America et. al. to ban baby bath seats. We are alarmed at the high incidence of babies drowning in this product and believe it poses an unreasonable risk of injury and death to children. At least 66 children have died when using this product and an additional 37 were involved in near drownings involving bath seats. Already in the first six months of this year at least five babies have died.

Bath seats have a very short useful life. They are not recommended for use until six months of age, when most infants can sit securely. Once an infant can pull up (generally between seven and nine months) or attempt to stand while holding onto objects, infant bath seats should be discontinued, thus limiting its useful life to approximately two months. Recent research has found that parents and caregivers of infants that use baby bath seats engage in more risk taking behavior than parents and caretakers not using bath seats. Parents and caregivers may see this product as a safety device and thereby have a false sense of security with respect to its use. In addition, bath seats are incompatible with bathtubs meeting the current voluntary standard for bathtub slip resistance. For these reasons and the growing number of drowning deaths, we believe there is substantial evidence supporting a ban of this product.

Please vote to grant the petition of CFA and the other petitioning organizations. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Bob & Brenda Barger  
3110 Southland Street  
Cedar Rapids, IA  
319-364-3430  
bkbarger99@aol.com

Jaime Jasper  
1315 Elm Court  
DeWitt, IA 52742  
319-659-9354  
jaimejasper@hotmail.com

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Get Your Private, Free E-mail from MSN Hotmail at <http://www.hotmail.com>.

Share information about yourself, create your own public profile at <http://profiles.msn.com>.

*Bath seats*

*46*

~~Stevenson, Todd A~~

**From:** Pospisilrr@aol.com  
**Sent:** Monday, October 16, 2000 9:28 PM  
**To:** cpsc-os@cpsc.gov  
**Subject:** Dangerous Baby Bath Seats

October 16, 2000

Office of the Secretary  
Consumer Product Safety Commission  
Washington, D.C. 20207

RE: Comments on Petition (HP 00-4) by CFA et. al. seeking a Ban of Baby Bath Seats Federal Register: August 22, 2000 (Volume 65, Number 163, page 50968)

The undersigned citizen strongly urges you to grant the petition of the Consumer Federation of America et. al. to ban baby bath seats. We are alarmed at the high incidence of babies drowning in this product and believe it poses an unreasonable risk of injury and death to children. At least 66 children have died when using this product and an additional 37 were involved in near drownings involving bath seats. Already in the first six months of this year at least five babies have died.

Bath seats have a very short useful life. They are not recommended for use until six months of age, when most infants can sit securely. Once an infant can pull up (generally between seven and nine months) or attempt to stand while holding onto objects, infant bath seats should be discontinued, thus limiting its useful life to approximately two months. Recent research has found that parents and caregivers of infants that use baby bath seats engage in more risk taking behavior than parents and caretakers not using bath seats. Parents and caregivers may see this product as a safety device and thereby have a false sense of security with respect to its use. In addition, bath seats are incompatible with bathtubs meeting the current voluntary standard for bathtub slip resistance. For these reasons and the growing number of drowning deaths, we believe there is substantial evidence supporting a ban of this product.

Please vote to grant the petition of CFA and the other petitioning organizations. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Robin R. Pospisil  
51 Butcher Road  
Martelle IA 52305  
319-482-2066

*Bath bath seats*

*47*

**Stevenson, Todd A.**

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**From:** Becky Cooper [Beckyc@perx.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, October 16, 2000 1:06 PM  
**To:** 'cpsc-os@cpsc.gov'  
**Subject:** Petition HP 00-4, Petition to Ban Bath Seats

I/We, the undersigned citizen(s) strongly urge you to grant the petition of the Consumer Federation of America et. al. to ban baby bath seats. I/We am/are alarmed at the high incidence of babies drowning in this product and believe it poses an unreasonable risk of injury and death to children. At least 66 children have died when using this product and an additional 37 were involved in near drownings involving bath seats. Already in the first six months of this year at least five babies have died.

Bath seats have a very short useful life. They are not recommended for use until six months of age, when most infants can sit securely. Once an infant can pull up generally between seven and nine months) or attempt to stand while holding onto objects, infant bath seats should be discontinued, thus limiting its useful life to approximately two months. Recent research has found that parents and caregivers of infants that use baby bath seats engage in more risk taking behavior than parents and caretakers not using bath seats. Parents and caregivers may see this product as a safety device and thereby have a false sense of security with respect to its use. In addition, bath seats are incompatible with bathtubs meeting the current voluntary standard for bathtub slip resistance. For these reasons and the growing number of drowning deaths, I/we believe there is substantial evidence supporting a ban of this product.

Please vote to grant the petition of CFA and the other petitioning organizations. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Becky Cooper  
7201 Marywood Circle  
Austin, TX 78723  
512-391-2046

*Baby seats*

Stevenson, Todd A.

From: Jason Knapp [jason.knapp@wcom.com]  
Sent: Tuesday, October 17, 2000 10:42 AM  
To: cpsc-os@cpsc.gov  
Subject: Ban Bath Seats

October 17, 2000

Office of the Secretary  
Consumer Product Safety Commission  
Washington, D.C. 20207

RE: Comments on Petition (HP 00-4) by CFA et. al. seeking a Ban of Baby Bath Seats Federal Register: August 22, 2000 (Volume 65, Number 163, page 50968)

The undersigned citizen strongly urges you to grant the petition of the Consumer Federation of America et. al. to ban baby bath seats. We are alarmed at the high incidence of babies drowning in this product and believe it poses an unreasonable risk of injury and death to children. At least 66 children have died when using this product and an additional 37 were involved in near drownings involving bath seats. Already in the first six months of this year at least five babies have died.

Bath seats have a very short useful life. They are not recommended for use until six months of age, when most infants can sit securely. Once an infant can pull up (generally between seven and nine months) or attempt to stand while holding onto objects, infant bath seats should be discontinued, thus limiting its useful life to approximately two months. Recent research has found that parents and caregivers of infants that use baby bath seats engage in more risk taking behavior than parents and caretakers not using bath seats. Parents and caregivers may see this product as a safety device and thereby have a false sense of security with respect to its use. In addition, bath seats are incompatible with bathtubs meeting the current voluntary standard for bathtub slip resistance. For these reasons and the growing number of drowning deaths, we believe there is substantial evidence supporting a ban of this product.

Please vote to grant the petition of CFA and the other petitioning organizations. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Jason M. Knapp  
1050 Grand Ave #6  
Marion, IA 52302  
319 373-2661  
>

Stevenson, Todd A.

*Bath  
seats  
49*

From: e.cesari@att.net  
Sent: Tuesday, October 17, 2000 9:25 AM  
To: cpsc-os@cpsc.gov  
Subject: 'Petition HP 00-4, Petition to Ban Bath Seats'

October 17, 2000

Office of the Secretary  
Consumer Product Safety Commission  
Washington, D.C. 20207

RE: Comments on Petition (HP 00-4) by CFA et. al.  
seeking a Ban of Baby Bath Seats Federal Register:  
August 22, 2000 (Volume 65, Number 163, page 50968)

The undersigned citizen strongly urges you to grant the petition of the Consumer Federation of America et. al. to ban baby bath seats. We are alarmed at the high incidence of babies drowning in this product and believe it poses an unreasonable risk of injury and death to children. At least 66 children have died when using this product and an additional 37 were involved in near drownings involving bath seats. Already in the first six months of this year at least five babies have died.

Bath seats have a very short useful life. They are not recommended for use until six months of age, when most infants can sit securely. Once an infant can pull up (generally between seven and nine months) or attempt to stand while holding onto objects, infant bath seats should be discontinued, thus limiting its useful life to approximately two months. Recent research has found that parents and caregivers of infants that use baby bath seats engage in more risk taking behavior than parents and caretakers not using bath seats. Parents and caregivers may see this product as a safety device and thereby have a false sense of security with respect to its use. In addition, bath seats are incompatible with bathtubs meeting the current voluntary standard for bathtub slip resistance. For these reasons and the growing number of drowning deaths, we believe there is substantial evidence supporting a ban of this product.

Please vote to grant the petition of CFA and the other petitioning organizations. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Erica Cesari  
1280 Larpenteur Ave W #307  
St. Paul, MN 55113  
651-487-0443

Stevenson, Todd A.

*bath seats*

50

From: Cathy Jo Barber [cjbarber@blue.weeg.uiowa.edu]  
Sent: Tuesday, October 17, 2000 12:03 AM  
To: cpsc-os@cpsc.gov

October 16, 2000

Office of the Secretary  
Consumer Product Safety Commission  
Washington, D.C. 20207

RE: Comments on Petition (HP 00-4) by CFA et. al. seeking a Ban of Baby Bath Seats Federal Register: August 22, 2000 (Volume 65, Number 163, page 50968)

The undersigned citizen strongly urges you to grant the petition of the Consumer Federation of America et. al. to ban baby bath seats. We are alarmed at the high incidence of babies drowning in this product and believe it poses an unreasonable risk of injury and death to children. At least 66 children have died when using this product and an additional 37 were involved in near drownings involving bath seats. Already in the first six months of this year at least five babies have died.

Bath seats have a very short useful life. They are not recommended for use until six months of age, when most infants can sit securely. Once an infant can pull up (generally between seven and nine months) or attempt to stand while holding onto objects, infant bath seats should be discontinued, thus limiting its useful life to approximately two months. Recent research has found that parents and caregivers of infants that use baby bath seats engage in more risk taking behavior than parents and caretakers not using bath seats. Parents and caregivers may see this product as a safety device and thereby have a false sense of security with respect to its use. In addition, bath seats are incompatible with bathtubs meeting the current voluntary standard for bathtub slip resistance. For these reasons and the growing number of drowning deaths, we believe there is substantial evidence supporting a ban of this product.

Please vote to grant the petition of CFA and the other petitioning organizations. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Cathy Barber  
100 Mayflower Hall #702A  
Iowa City, IA 52242

(319) 353-1188

Stevenson, Todd A.

*With*  
51

From: empenne@collins.rockwell.com  
Sent: Tuesday, October 17, 2000 3:26 PM  
To: cpsc-os@cpsc.gov  
Subject: Petition HP 00-4, Petition to Ban Bath Seats

October 17, 2000

Office of the Secretary  
Consumer Product Safety Commission  
Washington, D.C. 20207

RE: Comments on Petition (HP 00-4) by CFA et. al. seeking a Ban of Baby Bath Seats Federal Register: August 22, 2000 (Volume 65, Number 163, page 50968)

The undersigned citizen strongly urges you to grant the petition of the Consumer Federation of America et. al. to ban baby bath seats. We are alarmed at the high incidence of babies drowning in this product and believe it poses an unreasonable risk of injury and death to children. At least 66 children have died when using this product and an additional 37 were involved in near drownings involving bath seats. Already in the first six months of this year at least five babies have died.

Bath seats have a very short useful life. They are not recommended for use until six months of age, when most infants can sit securely. Once an infant can pull up (generally between seven and nine months) or attempt to stand while holding onto objects, infant bath seats should be discontinued, thus limiting its useful life to approximately two months. Recent research has found that parents and caregivers of infants that use baby bath seats engage in more risk taking behavior than parents and caretakers not using bath seats. Parents and caregivers may see this product as a safety device and thereby have a false sense of security with respect to its use. In addition, bath seats are incompatible with bathtubs meeting the current voluntary standard for bathtub slip resistance. For these reasons and the growing number of drowning deaths, we believe there is substantial evidence supporting a ban of this product.

Please vote to grant the petition of CFA and the other petitioning organizations. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Erin M. Penne  
6222 Rockwell Dr, NE #203  
Cedar Rapids, IA 52402  
319-395-7759

~~Stevenson, Todd A.~~

**From:** Kathie King-Hoffman [kathie\_king-hoffman@globalcrossing.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 18, 2000 8:57 AM  
**To:** 'cpsc-os@cpsc.gov'  
**Subject:** Petition HP 00-4, Petition to Ban Bath Seats

October 18, 2000

Office of the Secretary  
Consumer Product Safety Commission  
Washington, D.C. 20207

RE: Comments on Petition (HP 00-4) by CFA et. al. seeking a Ban of Baby Bath Seats Federal Register: August 22, 2000 (Volume 65, Number 163, page 50968)

I strongly urge you to grant the petition of the Consumer Federation of America et. al. to ban baby bath seats. I am alarmed at the high incidence of babies drowning in this product and believe it poses an unreasonable risk of injury and death to children. At least 66 children have died when using this product and an additional 37 were involved in near drownings involving bath seats. Already in the first six months of this year at least five babies have died.

Bath seats have a very short useful life. They are not recommended for use until six months of age, when most infants can sit securely. Once an infant can pull up (generally between seven and nine months) or attempt to stand while holding onto objects, infant bath seats should be discontinued, thus limiting its useful life to approximately two months. Recent research has found that parents and caregivers of infants that use baby bath seats engage in more risk taking behavior than parents and caretakers not using bath seats. Parents and caregivers may

see this product as a safety device and thereby have a false sense of security with respect to its use. In addition, bath seats are incompatible with bathtubs meeting the current voluntary standard for bathtub slip resistance. For these reasons and the growing number of drowning deaths, I believe there is substantial evidence supporting a ban of this product.

Please vote to grant the petition of CFA and the other petitioning organizations. Thank you.

Sincerely,

10/18/00

Kathie King-Hoffman  
1114 15th Ave SW  
Cedar Rapids, IA 52404  
319.298.1445

October 19, 2000

Office of the Secretary  
Consumer Product Safety Commission  
Room 501  
4330 East-West Highway  
Bethesda, Maryland 20814

To whom it may concern:

We are writing to offer our suggestions and our opinions on the Proposed Rule "Petition HP 00-4, Petition to Ban Baby Bath Seats." This is a very important topic that touches the lives of millions of people across the country. It is literally a life or death situation and requires much attention and scrutiny. We have therefore decided after much research and evaluation that baby bath seats **should not be banned**. When used appropriately, this product is safe and provides beneficial and valuable assistance to parents and caregivers throughout the country. The problems arise when parents use this product in an incorrect manner, with no common sense. Approximately four (4) deaths per year can be attributed directly to improper use of baby bath seat products, while annual sales usually remain in the millions. To counteract the potential disadvantages associated with this product, we offer several solutions to assist in minimizing the potential for serious or fatal accidents.

***Recommendation #1: Place a warning label directly on the product and make the package warning more noticeable***

One of our primary recommendations concerns the warning labels included with this product. It is obvious to us that the size, location, and coloration of the warnings are inadequate to provide sufficient warning to consumers. We strongly suggest that on all products such as this, an identical warning be placed not only on the packaging, but also on the product itself. You are aware that products such as this are frequently "handed down" while instructions and vital warnings are rarely included. The "hand-me-down" is generally just the product itself. A long-lasting and appropriate safety warning placed directly upon the product would be the most logical and efficient way of preventing fatal or serious accidents.

Concerning the label on the product packaging itself, this should be noticeable, understandable, and communicable to all consumers. The font size and coloring should be of sufficient quality to catch the consumers' attention and effectively convey the warning. Some industries will surely protest that a bright red warning label will deter prospective purchasers and might therefore lead to a decrease in sales. Since we are offering these suggestions as industry-wide recommendations—for all similar products—we do not see this as hurting any one individual company's profits. If people are determined to purchase a product such as this, a warning label will probably not greatly affect a consumer's decision. Federal regulations, which proscribe the size and location of these warnings, must be followed explicitly. In some cases it may be necessary for a

company to exceed these minimal requirements and take additional steps to protect consumer safety.

***Recommendation #2: Disassociate the product from the word "safety"***

The disassociation of the word safety from the bath seats can be accomplished in two steps. The word "safety" should be removed from the product, the packaging, and the instruction or warning sheet. Secondly, the product should not be marketed as a safe product (example: taken off safety web pages and off of other lists which promote it as a safe product). Safety web pages promote them as a product to help with safe bathing, and this is an erroneous statement. Baby bath seats should only be used for convenience's sake, never safety's sake. This distinction should be made extremely clear to the consumer. The word "convenience" should be emphasized on the packaging rather than the word "safety". This is an important step which should be taken to change the way parents see this product; it would hopefully reduce the accidents and deaths associated with improper use of the product. Obviously, caregivers think that using the product gives them added security which in turn promotes risk-taking behavior. This unfortunately leads to incidents where babies have drowned. We believe that if the word safety is taken off the package, product, and instruction/warning sheet, then caretakers will be less likely to associate the product with safety. This recommendation includes one manufacturer, Safety First, taking its current brand name off the product. These bath seats should not be marketed as a safe product by the manufacturer or other safety related organizations. This would be an appropriate action in making caregivers realize that baby bath seats should not be related with safe bathing. These seats have been linked with numerous deaths, and the manufacturers have stated that the product is only for convenience. We believe it is necessary to stop the confusion that occurs through associating a product made for convenience with a product made for safety.

***Recommendation #3: Weight limits in lieu of age***

The next recommendation that our group decided to focus on was for companies to re-evaluate the way they market their baby bath seats, insisting on marketing toward age as opposed to weight. Our main intent as a group is to reach out to companies in hope that they realize age is not an ideal way to set limits on their products. Our primary concern is with the safety of one's child. This is reflected in our recommendation that a company change its name from Safety First; we believe it gives a false sense of security. We all know that some children, during the stages of early development, are sometimes bigger or develop quicker than other children (and vice versa). With this in mind, parents usually feel that a certain product is safe because his or her child fits within the age requirements, while in fact the child may be too heavy, thereby posing a safety hazard. If the child is too heavy, it only requires a split second for the child and the bath seat to topple over. We firmly believe that there has to be some sort of change in the marketing of baby bath seats and that companies have to be held accountable for their actions. While accidents do occur, companies have a responsibility not only to themselves, but also to the consumer, of insuring the safety of children.

***Recommendation #4: Place a water-depth marker directly on the product***

One of the important precautions that parents should take is realizing the amount of water that should be in the tub while bathing the child. We understand that not everyone in society has common sense when it comes to things like this. We believe that the safety of the product can be improved if the seat itself had some sort of water level marker in a bright color to make certain that parents take this precaution. The marker should be set at a point where in case the baby fell out of the seat, he or she would not be in danger of drowning. A low water level marker will also help parents realize that the seat is not a safety guard for them to leave the infant alone—it is their responsibility to be there ensuring that the water marker is not passed, placing the infant in danger of drowning. The danger precautions should be placed in different areas of the product itself, on the box, and in the manual that the product comes with. The main danger in the possibility of drowning is water, not the product itself. Therefore it is important for the manufacturers to advise consumers of how much water is too much when bathing the infant. The water level markers will help do just that. If the manufacturer can make aware to the consumer how important it is to follow these regulations, parents will begin to realize that this product is not a safety net: it is merely an aid for the parent to bathe their child.

***Recommendation #5: Make product suction cups with a higher quality rubber***

In more than 90% of the incidents, what has happened is that the adult left the baby unattended. In the majority of the cases, it has been for a period of less than five minutes. The baby bath seats are useful and 100% effective only for a short period of time, even less than four (4) minutes. Both the baby bath seat and the bath ring are attached to the bathtub surface via suction cups during its use. But the baby rapidly outgrows the ability of the suction cups to remain attached to the bottom of the bathtub—thereby allowing it to flip over once the baby starts moving and changing positions. In our opinion these suction cups should be made of stronger material in order to support the infant at all times and for a longer period of time.

But how do these suction cups come off? A suction cup will come off when the air pressure on the outside becomes lower than the pressure inside the suction cup. When suction cups are applied properly to a clean, dry, and nonporous surface that stays close to the same temperature, they *should* stay up indefinitely.

**Some of the precautions for adults using the bathtubs should be:**

Suction cups must be replaced every six months;  
Clean surface area before use; and,  
Never leave infant unattended under any circumstances.

**Some precautions for the manufacturers of the baby bath seats should be:**

Increase the suction cup diameter;  
Conduct an investigation of exactly how much weight the suction cups can hold;  
The baby bath seat should come with a replacement suction cup;

Detailed instructions in the box explaining how the seat could flip over; and,  
Make the suction with a higher quality rubber.

***Recommendation #6: Make the Baby Bath Seat Adjustable***

The baby bath ring used to bathe babies could be adjustable if manufactures would want them to be. As we have seen, the regular bath rings used to bathe babies have been associated with the increase of babies drowning in the tub. An example is a case of a baby drowning when the mother could not take the baby out of the bath rings in time, leading to the baby drowning. In order to avoid babies drowning we suggest the following:

Make the baby bath rings adjustable in both width and height dimensions.

**Width:** Have, on the sides of the chair, a mechanism to adjust the chair so parents can adjust the seat to the size of their baby. By adjusting the sides of the chair the baby would be more secure since the chair would be appropriate to his or her size. There would not be any excuse for the baby to fall out of the ring and drown because he or she could not get out of the ring.

**Height:** Having the height adjusted is important because if the ring is high enough, then even should there be too much water in the bathtub, no drowning would occur. The seat would be higher than the level of water.

Have a better frame material: material that is not too slippery for the child.

Have a safety restraint system on the seat.

All of these recommendations are simply suggestions and guidelines which we hope the Federal government, manufacturers, and appropriate authorities will consider and perhaps implement into this issue. Parents must take responsibility for caring for their children, and they must do so in a way that ensures safety. There is no need to ban baby bath seats; however, there are changes that can be put in effect that will hopefully ensure the protection and the life of any child who is affected by this product.

Thank you for your concern and your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Mr. Travis L. Letellier  
Mr. Eddie Alvarez  
Mr. JC Castro  
Ms. Tania Gutierrez  
Ms. Rosemary Alvarado  
Ms. Stephanie Ostapowich

**Stevenson, Todd A.**

---

**From:** Travis Letellier [travisletellier@hotmail.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 19, 2000 4:34 PM  
**To:** cpsc-os@cpsc.gov  
**Subject:** Petition HP 00-4, Petition to Ban Baby Bath Seats



Baby Bath Letter.doc

To whom it may concern:

Please find attached a letter containing suggestions and opinions on HP 00-4.

---

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Share information about yourself, create your own public profile at <http://profiles.msn.com>.

Bath seats

54

**E. Marla Felcher  
325 Harvard Street  
Cambridge, MA 02139  
(617)441-9714**

October 20, 2000

Ms. Sadye E. Dunn  
Secretary  
U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission  
Washington, D C 20207-0001

**RE: Petition HP-00-4, Petition to Ban Bath Seats**

Dear Ms. Dunn,

I am writing to comment on the petition filed by the Consumer Federation of America and other consumer groups to ban infant bath seats. I am in full support of this ban.

I am a freelance journalist and a consumer member of ASTM committee F-15. After attending ASTM bath seat meetings for two years, I have come to the conclusion that there is no better example of the inadequacy of industry voluntary standards than the case of bath seats. During the five years the bath seat standard was under development, the bath seat committee repeatedly disregarded the CPSC's requests, the arguments of F-15 consumer members, and the continuing bath seat death toll. The final standard does not call for any significant structural changes to existing bath seat designs. Therefore, there is no reason to believe the voluntary "safety" standard will reduce bath seat fatalities.

Manufacturers and Commissioner Gall repeatedly blame bath seat drownings on caregiver behavior. Yet in making such an argument, they are overlooking an important piece of information - **why** caregivers behave this way. Dr. Clay Mann (phone: 801-585-9161) of the University of Utah has conducted research that I urge all the CPSC commissioners to read before voting on this important petition. Dr. Mann's conclusion. By providing a "hands-free" support for a baby, bath seats foster the impression that it is safe to leave a child alone "just for a minute," and thereby **increase** the likelihood that a child will drown.

That a "safety" standard now exists for a product as deadly as bath seats reduces the credibility of the entire voluntary standard-setting process. It also provides disturbing evidence that manufacturers sometimes put profits ahead of safety. The costs associated with bath seats - to babies and their families and to the public health system - far outweigh the product's benefits.

Sincerely,



Marla Felcher

From: Sue\_Fuller@rsmi.com  
Sent: Friday, October 20, 2000 3:09 PM  
To: cpsc-os@cpsc.gov  
Subject: Petition HP 00-4, Petition to Ban Bath

October 20, 2000

Office of the Secretary  
Consumer Product Safety Commission  
Washington, D.C. 20207

RE: Comments on Petition (HP 00-4) by CFA et. al. seeking a Ban of Baby Bath Seats Federal Register: August 22, 2000 (Volume 65, Number 163, page 50968)

The undersigned citizen strongly urges you to grant the petition of the Consumer Federation of America et. al. to ban baby bath seats. We are alarmed at the high incidence of babies drowning in this product and believe it poses an unreasonable risk of injury and death to children. At least 66 children have died when using this product and an additional 37 were involved in near drownings involving bath seats. Already in the first six months of this year at least five babies have died.

Bath seats have a very short useful life. They are not recommended for use until six months of age, when most infants can sit securely. Once an infant can pull up (generally between seven and nine months) or attempt to stand while holding onto objects, infant bath seats should be discontinued, thus limiting its useful life to approximately two months. Recent research has found that parents and caregivers of infants that use baby bath seats engage in more risk taking behavior than parents and caretakers not using bath seats. Parents and caregivers may see this product as a safety device and thereby have a false sense of security with respect to its use. In addition, bath seats are incompatible with bathtubs meeting the current voluntary standard for bathtub slip resistance. For these reasons and the growing number of drowning deaths, we believe there is substantial evidence supporting a ban of this product.

Please vote to grant the petition of CFA and the other petitioning organizations. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Sue Fuller  
1841 County Home Rd  
Marion, IA 52302  
319-377-6794



1301 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.  
Suite 1000  
Washington, D.C. 20004-1707  
(202) 662-0600  
(202) 393-2072 Fax  
www.safekids.org

**Chairman**

C Everett Koop, M.D.

**President**

Martin R. Eichelberger, M.D.

**Executive Director**

Heather Paul, Ph.D.

October 23, 2000

Sadye F. Dunn  
Secretary  
U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission  
Washington, DC 20207-0001

**RE: Petition HP 00-4, Petition to Ban Bath Seats**

Dear Ms. Dunn:

On behalf of the National SAFE KIDS Campaign, I am writing in regard to a petition filed by the Consumer Federation of America and other consumer groups to ban infant bath seats. The National SAFE KIDS Campaign is in full support of a rule, to be issued by the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, to ban baby bath seats and bath rings.

Comprised of over 290 state and local coalitions, the National SAFE KIDS Campaign is the first and only national organization dedicated solely to the prevention of unintentional childhood injury - the number one killer of children ages 14 and under. The Campaign strongly believes that baby bath seats and bath rings pose an unreasonable risk of injury and death to children. Both bath seats and rings encourage dangerous consumer behavior by making caregivers believe that a baby is in a relatively safe environment, and as a result, the baby may be left unattended in the water. As babies can drown very quickly if left alone in the bathtub, hazardous products that encourage a false sense of security should be banned from the marketplace.

As drowning is the leading cause of unintentional injury-related death among children ages 1 to 4, the Campaign feels that it is extremely important to address the deadly combination of bathtubs and unattended babies through the ban of bath seats and rings. We hope that the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission will revisit its 1994 decision regarding bath seats and rings.

I am available to answer any questions that the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission might have relating to our position. As always, the Campaign looks forward to working with the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission on this and other issues in the future.

Sincerely,

Heather Paul, Ph.D.  
Executive Director



Founding Sponsor  
*Johnson & Johnson*

Stevenson, Todd A.

57

**From:** LaDawn Smith [iowawordsmith@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, October 23, 2000 3:31 PM  
**To:** cpsc-os@cpsc.gov  
**Subject:** Petition HP 00-4, Petition to Ban Bath

Office of the Secretary  
Consumer Product Safety Commission  
Washington, D.C. 20207

RE: Comments on Petition (HP 00-4) by CFA et. al.  
seeking a Ban of Baby  
Bath Seats Federal Register: August 22, 2000 (Volume  
65, Number 163,  
page 50968)

The undersigned citizen strongly urges you to grant  
the petition  
of the Consumer Federation of America et. al. to ban  
baby bath seats. We are alarmed at the high  
incidence of babies  
drowning in this product and believe it poses an  
unreasonable risk of  
injury and death to children. At least 66 children  
have died when using  
this product and an additional 37 were involved in  
near drownings  
involving bath seats. Already in the first six  
months of this year at  
least five babies have died.

Bath seats have a very short useful life. They are  
not recommended for  
use until six months of age, when most infants can  
sit securely. Once  
an infant can pull up (generally between seven and  
nine months) or  
attempt to stand while holding onto objects, infant  
bath seats should be  
discontinued, thus limiting its useful life to  
approximately two  
months. Recent research has found that parents and  
caregivers of  
infants  
that use baby bath seats engage in more risk taking  
behavior than  
parents and caretakers not using bath seats. Parents  
and caregivers may  
see this product as a safety device and thereby have  
a false sense of  
security with respect to its use. In addition, bath  
seats are  
incompatible with bathtubs meeting the current  
voluntary standard for  
bathtub slip resistance. For these reasons and the  
growing number of  
drowning  
deaths, we believe there is substantial evidence  
supporting a ban of  
this product.

Please vote to grant the petition of CFA and the  
other petitioning  
organizations. Thank you.

Sincerely,

LaDawn Smith  
1400 Second AV SE #103  
Cedar Rapids, IA 52403  
319-362-6134

---

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~~Stevenson, Todd A.~~

*Initials  
2005  
58*

From: Stephanie\_Turner@rsmi.com  
Sent: Monday, October 23, 2000 10:24 AM  
To: cpsc-os@cpsc.gov  
Cc: beth.vozenilek@worldcom.com  
Subject: RE: Comments on Petition (HP 00-4) by CFA et. al. seeking a Ban of Baby

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY  
CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON D.C. 20207

PETITION TO BAN BABY BATH SEATS HP 00-4

Baby bath seats and rings truly are an invitation to danger. This past June I have had the misfortune of learning this tragic lesson first hand. On June 8th my 7 month old baby girl drown in her Safety 1st Baby Bath Seat. She was rushed by ambulance to emergency care. But still lost her life 24 hours later.

I used the baby bath seat every day from the time Olivia was 5 and 1/2 months old until the day before her death. I liked the seat so well because it made me feel safe giving my daughter a bath. I was so comfortable with the seat that I took a risk that I as a loving caring mother would have never otherwise taken.

I never even thought of the danger involved in briefly leaving the room that day. But the consequences were grave. When I briefly stepped out of the room on that dreaded day, I hared not one splash, not one cry. Still I returned only to find my beautiful daughter trapped completely underneath the water.

I had previously had successful experiences briefly turning my back or even stepping out of the room while Olivia was bathing to grab a forgotten towel or answer the phone. Never before had there even been a clue of a problem. In fact there were occasions where the suction cups had stuck so well that Olivia's father had to assist me in removing the seat.

Before Olivia was big enough for the bath seat. I was always in the bath with her. It was the only way I felt safe handling her slippery wet soapy body. Her father always assisted getting baby safely in and out of tub.

The bath seat is made for hands free bathing of your baby. When, in all actuality you should never take your hands off your baby for even 1 split second while they're in the water. I know that if it hadn't been for that seat holding my baby securely upright and out of the water that I would have never stepped away from my daughter. And all who loved her would still have the special joy only she could touch our hearts with.

I was a good parent. Being the oldest of 5 children and 19 1st cousins by 9 years, I had plenty of experience around and with little ones. I have every confidence in myself as a mother, and know that my daughter was very well taken care of. This tragedy is absolutely not the result of bad parenting as some people find easier to believe. It is the result of this product and it's power to misguide caring parents.

Since this terrible tragedy has occurred there has been a vast number of people come forward and admit that they too had taken the same risk I did when there children were young. Fortunately they were lucky and their misguided actions had never turned into tragedy. These are good respectable parents who serve as

mentors, teachers and nurses in our community, not parents who don't care.

Knowing that this product has the power to fool even the most educated safety conscience parents, I ask you should a child's life be up to chance? Can we sleep at night knowing this product is out there being brought into new homes every day posing a risk most people are completely oblivious to and do nothing about it? We have the opportunity once again to prevent this from happening to another child, another parent. And as a responsible people we must make the right decision.

Maybe the 54 additional deaths that have occurred since it was decided that this product not be banned weigh too heavy on the conscience to admit mistake and now do the right thing. But pointing the condemning finger of blame at good nurturing parents is not going to save the next victim's life. Banning this product and getting it off of the shelves will.

Just think about my daughter and the 53 other children who have lost their lives since 1994 when your choice was education. And realize that your choice was unsuccessful then and will be unsuccessful again. Had you made the right choice the 1st time you had the opportunity to make a difference that product would have never made it into the 54 homes in the first place. Let alone, taken our children from us. And that would have been a difference that meant something.

I urge you to make the right decision in this great country where we take pride in loving and protecting our children and ban these death traps. Do not let this product rob another baby's life, another family's hopes and dreams. Enough is enough, and 67 deaths is 67 too many. We must not sit idly by and watch this any longer. We must take action and ban these products.

Respectfully,

Stephanie Lynn Vozenilek

2418 9th Avenue S.W.  
Cedar Rapids, IA 52404

319-896-5400 Office  
319-286-0194 Home

*Paul  
59*

From:  
Florida International University Students  
Gerald Hew  
Sahyli Marin  
Danny Rodrigo  
Audrey Castro  
Paul Cevallos

October 18, 2000

To:  
Office of the Secretary  
Consumer Product Safety Commission  
Washington, D.C. 20207

**RE: DOC # 00-21257**

To Whom It May Concern:

We are requesting the Consumer Product Safety Commission to re-examine the baby bath seats in light of the additional deaths and new information identified in petition HP-004. In 1994 the commission ruled against banning the seats, deciding it would just inform the public of the possible risks associated with leaving the infants unattended. Obviously this did not suffice because fifty-two additional deaths have been reported since and the product is still out in the market. The baby bath seats might be practical but this practicality leaves far too much room for accidents. As future parents, we would like to see the rule revoked. The key points that we want to address are the inefficiency of the suction cups that cause the product to tip over, the lack of warning labels on the product, and the false sense of security it gives to the parents and caretakers.

The baby bath seat is intended to hold the infant in a sitting position. The suction cups at the bottom of the chair are supposed to stick to the tub's surface, which would prevent the chair from tipping over. The damage to the child typically occurs when the seat tips over. The effectiveness of the draft requirements for suction cups is a concern for us because most bathtubs today have a textured non-skid surface. The reason for this is to prevent slipping accidents in the bathtub. It may not be obvious to every bath seat consumer whether their tubs are textured or not, but the suction cups on the baby bath seats cannot affix to a textured bathtub's surface properly. This reason is what causes the majority of the suction cup failures.

It has been reported that, after the bath seat has been tipped over, it is very difficult to free the infant from the product. There have been two reported fatal incidents where the caregiver was present but unable to remove the infant from the device. One of the cases involved a six-month-old infant whose seat had tipped over sideways. In total, nine drownings were reported as a result of the product tipping over. Each year at least eight babies drown as a result of the bath seat slipping. In the cases where the product

has tipped over, the seat itself has contributed to the drowning by weighting the child down and making it difficult for the caregiver to remove the infant from under the water.

Another concern is with the warning labels. The warning labels should not only be on the outside of the box but also on the product itself. Since the baby bath seat has such a limited life-span, usually only lasting until the child outgrows it, it gets passed down to friends and family. When this occurs usually the prior user has thrown away the box. Without the box, the next person to use the seat will not know that the seat should not be used on textured surfaces. Now, it should be common knowledge that you do not leave a baby unattended, but some consumers need to read the warning labels in order to understand that the seats are not a safety-nest for their child to be left alone in. This brings us to our next topic: Dealing with the false sense of security that the bath seat portrays.

This false sense of security makes the product more favorable for banning. Research demonstrates that users of the baby bath seats engage in more risk taking behavior than parents who do not use the seats. Any improvements made to the product can increase risky behavior due to the impression that the bath seats are safer. This would increase the probability that the infants would be left alone while in the bath tub. Research indicates that the more luxurious looking the bath seat, the more confidence the parent or caregiver will have in leaving the child alone. Without the bath seats, parents will have their hands more occupied, but that will give them a chance to bond more with their children and pay more attention to them. This will decrease the chances of leaving a child unattended.

There is always a danger in handling small children. One can never predict what they are going to do and what accidents could incur. Drowning is the third leading cause of accidental death in the United States. There have been sixty-six drowning deaths to infants and thirty-seven near drowning incidents. We would like to see something being done to prevent any further drowning associated incidents involving bath seats.

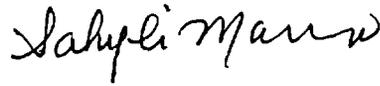
We would like you to please consider the previous comments before finalizing your decision.

Thank you,

Gerald Hew  
17240 SW 83 Ct  
Miami, Fl 33157  
(305) 251-7078



Sahyli Marin  
9736 NW 122 Terr.  
Hialeah Gardens, Fl 33018  
(305) 606-6118



Daniel Rodrigo  
13427 SW 13 Lane  
Miami, Fl 33184  
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Audrey Castro  
12412 SW 18 Terr  
Miami, Fl 33175  
(305) 321-6176



Paul Cevallos  
9725 NW 52 Street Apt# 113  
Miami, FL 33178



**By FAX and E-MAIL**

October 23, 2000

Office of the Secretary  
Consumer Product Safety Commission  
Washington, D.C. 20207

**RE: Comments on Petition (HP 00-4) by CFA et. al. seeking a Ban of Baby Bath Seats, Federal Register: August 22, 2000 (Volume 65, Number 163, page 50968)**

The undersigned 18 state and local consumer organizations strongly urge you to grant the petition of Consumer Federation of America et. al. to ban baby bath seats. We are alarmed at the high incidence of babies drowning in this product and believe it poses an unreasonable risk of injury and death to children.

At least 66 children have died when using this product and an additional 37 were involved in near drownings involving bath seats. Already in the first six months of this year at least five babies have died. Bath seats have a very short useful life. They are not recommended for use until six months of age, when most infants can sit securely. Once an infant can pull up (generally between seven and nine months) or attempt to stand while holding onto objects, infant bath seats should be discontinued, thus limiting its useful life to approximately two months.

Recent research has found that parents and caregivers of infants that use baby bath seats engage in more risk taking behavior than parents and caretakers not using bath seats. Parents and caregivers may see this product as a safety device and thereby have a false sense of security with respect to its use. In addition, bath seats are incompatible with bathtubs meeting the current voluntary standard for bathtub slip resistance.

For these reasons and the growing number of drowning deaths, we believe there is substantial evidence supporting a ban of this product. We urge the Commission to vote to grant the petition of CFA and the other petitioning organizations. Thank you.

Sincerely,

American Council on Consumer Awareness, Inc. (MN)  
Arizona Consumers Council  
California Public Interest Research Group  
Columbia Consumer Education Council (SC)

**RE: Comments on Petition (HP 00-4) by CFA et. al. seeking a Ban of Baby Bath Seats; Federal Register: August 22, 2000 (Volume 65, Number 163, page 50968)**  
Page two of sign-on letter

Connecticut Public Interest Research Group  
Consumer Action (CA)  
Democratic Processes Center (AZ)  
Florida Action Coalition Team  
Illinois Public Interest Research Group  
Iowa Public Interest Research Group  
Kansas SAFE KIDS Coalition, Inc.  
Massachusetts Public Interest Research Group  
Michigan Consumer Federation  
North Carolina Consumers Council, Inc.  
Oregon State Public Interest Research Group  
Pennsylvania Citizens Consumer Council  
Virginia Citizens Consumer Council  
Wisconsin Public Interest Research Group