

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

July 3, 2024

The Honorable Alexander Hoehn-Saric  
Chair  
Consumer Product Safety Commission  
4330 East West Highway  
Bethesda, MD 20814

Dear Chair Hoehn-Saric:

We write today requesting swift action by the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) to ensure that beach umbrellas sold in the United States are safe for consumers and the public. To achieve this goal, we urge the Beach Umbrella Task Group within CPSC to finalize strong and clear consumer safety guidance for the design, manufacture, and use of beach umbrellas and anchor devices.

As we enter the Fourth of July holiday weekend, with millions of Americans enjoying our country's beaches, lakes, and rivers, it is vital that beachgoers are safe from dislodged beach umbrellas. Improperly secured umbrellas can result in death<sup>1</sup> or serious injury.<sup>2</sup> We believe that recent actions by CPSC and the American Society of Testing Materials (ASTM), including the release earlier this year of the ASTM F3681-24 safety standard, are good steps forward. We urge CPSC and industry to work together quickly to finish any outstanding suggested improvements or other modifications to this standard.

Following our sustained engagement on this issue over the last several years, the CPSC has worked with ASTM and other industry stakeholders to develop the ASTM F3681-24 safety standard and released it in April 2024. ASTM F3681-24 establishes minimum requirements for the safe anchoring of beach umbrellas, which should protect beachgoers from dislodged and airborne umbrellas.

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<sup>1</sup> Consumer Product Safety Commission (2024) Meeting Log, Meeting of the ASTM F15.79 Task Group on Beach Umbrellas. rep. Virtual: Consumer Product Safety Commission, pp. 1–1. Available at: <https://www.cpsc.gov/s3fs-public/2024-06-12-ASTM-15-79-Task-Group-on-Beach-Umbrellas-Meeting-Log.pdf> (Accessed: 02 July 2024).

<sup>2</sup> Gray News Staff (2024) Visitor impaled by rental umbrella at Beach, officials say, <https://www.12onyourside.com>. Available at: <https://www.12onyourside.com/2024/06/28/visitor-impaled-by-rental-umbrella-beach-officials-say/> (Accessed: 02 July 2024).

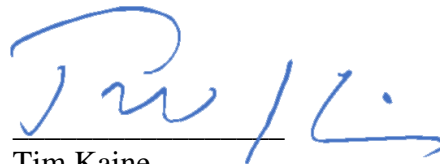
As the Beach Umbrellas Task Group continues to consider additional guidance and safety improvements to the ASTM F3681-24 standard, it is important that the group move swiftly and with thoroughness. We encourage the group to evaluate the full scope and harm of unsecured beach umbrellas to maximize safety for beachgoers.

We appreciate your attention to this critical and timely matter and urge CPSC to work with industry stakeholders to strengthen protections for consumers across the Commonwealth and nation.

Sincerely,



Mark R. Warner  
United States Senator



Tim Kaine  
United States Senator