



MISSOURI SENATE

JEFFERSON CITY

CAPITOL BUILDING, ROOM 419
JEFFERSON CITY, MO 65101

Luann Ridgeway
17th Senate District

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 2, 2008

Contact: Mike Morris
(573) 751-2547

Sen. Ridgeway's Furniture Safety Resolution Advanced by House Committee

JEFFERSON CITY — A House committee last week passed a resolution sponsored by Sen. Luann Ridgeway (R-Smithville), which seeks to help prevent the death of children due to furniture tip-over accidents.

[Senate Concurrent Resolution 40](#) was approved by the House Special Committee on Small Business and will now move to the House floor for debate. The resolution urges Congress and the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CSPC) to offer greater incentives for furniture manufacturers to use the American Society for Testing and Materials International's furniture safety standard for tip-over hazards, as well as to offer incentives for the use of warning labels on the tip-over risks for certain furniture and appliances.

Sen. Ridgeway's resolution also encourages the promotion of public education and awareness on furniture tip-over dangers and prevention methods.

“By promoting incentives to furniture manufacturers to comply with safety guidelines, perhaps we can avoid these tragic accidents altogether,” Sen. Ridgeway said. “If simple measures such as educating parents about the need to use anchoring devices could prevent the death of children, that's what we should be doing.”

Sen. Ridgeway was compelled to sponsor the measure after learning of a Clay County toddler who was crushed as a dresser he was trying to climb upon fell on top of him. The 30-inch dresser killed 2-year-old Charlie Horn.

“What makes Charlie’s death even more heartbreaking is that there was no indication that furniture of the size involved in his death posed any danger,” Sen. Ridgeway said. “If there had been some type of warning, this terrible accident could have been prevented.”

The CSPC has rated furniture tip-overs as the number three hidden danger in our homes. It estimates that 3,000 children under the age of 5 go to the emergency room each year with injuries caused by falling furniture or TVs, and at least 100 people — mostly young children — have been killed since 2000 by this household danger.

-END-