

Statement of Nancy B. Beck
Nominee, U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission
U.S. Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation
June 16, 2020

Good Afternoon Chairman Wicker, Ranking Member Cantwell, and Members of the Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to appear before you here today as you consider my nominations to the Consumer Product Safety Commission. I would like to thank the President for nominating me. I am humbled by this opportunity and, if confirmed, I look forward to working with all of you to advance public health and safety and engaging on any issues of particular interest to you as members of this Committee.

While my family is not here with me today due to the COVID pandemic, I would like to acknowledge all the love and support they have provided to me. They are watching from their homes in New York. I have six unique and wonderful nieces and nephews and they are with me in spirit.

Now more than ever, it is imperative that we ensure that the American public is protected from the myriad of consumer risks encountered on a daily basis. Our homes and recreational environments must be safe spaces where we can relax and not have to worry about encountering harmful risks.

If confirmed to work at the CPSC, I would continue to pursue my life-long commitment to promoting public safety through policies supported by objective and transparent science. My career, which has spanned state government, federal government, and the private sector, has been driven by my commitment to public health.

My career in public health started when I worked at a cosmetics company as a microbiologist, ensuring that cosmetics were safe for daily use. While in graduate school at the University of Washington, I volunteered for a program run through the American Lung Association that helped residents of Seattle identify and address contaminants such as lead, mold, and other indoor pollutants in the household. The satisfaction that came from working to keep consumers and homeowners safe inspired me to devote my career to furthering public protection.

My interest in public health was solidified while I was working for the Washington State Department of Health. There, I conducted the risk evaluation that led to the closure of a paint shop located in a low-income residential community. The growth of this facility had put the community at risk. This experience demonstrated to me the important role data and analysis can play in improving communities throughout our country. Additionally, engaging at the community level, and protecting children and the elderly, was highly motivating.

I moved to Washington D.C. to pursue opportunities that advanced my interests, knowledge, and management experience. I participated in the respected American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) Science and Technology Policy Fellowship program. Through this fellowship, at the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), I advanced my knowledge

regarding how science informs policy, and focused on health issues related to protecting those most at risk.

My fellowship was followed by almost a decade at the Office of Management and Budget (OMB), working under both President Bush and President Obama. As a career civil servant, I worked to establish science as an integral pillar of good regulation. At OMB, I honed my expertise in risk assessment and regulatory policy, and advanced public health by ensuring regulations were grounded in objective science.

I have also had the privilege of serving in a leadership role at EPA in the Office of Chemical Safety and Pollution Prevention (OCSPP), to help oversee the pesticides and chemicals programs. While there, I worked to implement the bipartisan Frank R. Lautenberg Chemical Safety for the 21st Century Act, as EPA put in place the framework to ensure that future chemical assessments are grounded in science, accountability, and transparency.

The mission of the CPSC is to protect the public against unreasonable risks of injury and death associated with consumer products. This mission continues to be of utmost importance. Having dedicated my career to protecting and improving public health, I am well equipped to help the CPSC advance its essential mission.

If confirmed, my priorities will include ensuring:

- 1) That CPSC takes appropriate and timely action to protect the public from risks, consistent with the CPSC statutory mandates.
- 2) That CPSC has effective communication and outreach tools. In particular, to address the changing ways through which consumers purchase products and receive important information.
- 3) The full confidence of the American public. CPSC programs must be run as effectively as possible to provide the highest level of protection to consumers and families. This includes hiring a Chief Technologist, as recommended by the Senate, to make certain that CPSC decisions are informed by the best available data and information.

If confirmed, I will look forward to working with each of you as well as CPSC's dedicated staff to fulfill the Commission's essential mission. I will be happy to answer any questions you may have for me today.