

Statement of Douglas Dziak  
Nominee, U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission  
United States Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

Chair Cantwell, Ranking Member Cruz, and members of the Committee.

Good morning and thank you for the opportunity to appear before the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, as a nominee to serve as a Commissioner on the United States Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC).

CPSC's mission is critical. The Commission works with Congress, the public, and many stakeholders to protect the public against unreasonable risks of injury associated with consumer products. CPSC's jurisdiction spans thousands of consumer products and affects all of us, but it does its work with just over 500 dedicated career staff, who work every day to keep consumers safe.

I want to thank President Biden for nominating me. It would be an honor to serve as a CPSC Commissioner, working to improve consumer safety.

I also want to thank my mom and dad. My mom, who passed away from dementia in November 2021, was a nurse who worked in various public health settings. She was and will always be my biggest champion.

My dad, who lives in Ohio and is unable to join me today due to his health, was a union welder at the local power company. While working a full-time job, he was also a part-time police officer in my hometown.

My parents' commitment to helping others is something that remains with me.

Here with me today, is my wife Leigh Anne, who is the most committed public servant I know. She served 26 years in federal law enforcement before retiring to care for her mom who is watching this hearing from home.

While some may have made a second career in the private sector or simply enjoyed retirement, she recently returned to federal service, joining the Department of Justice's Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Forces.

I do not tell her often enough how proud I am of her work or how grateful I am that she has always supported me in mine.

I am grateful for my family and friends, including the many colleagues with whom I have worked over the years on both sides of the political aisle.

These efforts included bipartisan legislation that I worked on with Senator Bayh and his staff to create the Office of the Intellectual Property Enforcement Coordinator and with Senator Casey and his staff on the successful reauthorization of the Perkins Career and Technical Education Act.

I would not have had the successes I did without such great colleagues to work with.

Since graduating from law school, I have worked as a regulatory attorney, a United States Senate staffer, and for the past two and a half years as Chief Counsel to CPSC Commissioner Peter Feldman, who I would also like to thank for adding me to his team.

My varied professional experiences have taught me valuable lessons about law and public policy from a variety of perspectives. I believe these experiences would serve me well as a Commissioner.

I have also been blessed with many wonderful mentors. Two in particular deserve mention.

Senator George Voinovich of my home state of Ohio, whom I served as Counsel and then Legislative Director; and Senator Mike Enzi of Wyoming, whom I served as Legislative Director and then as Budget Committee Staff Director.

Senators Voinovich and Enzi taught me much about public policy. More importantly, they taught me about teamwork and serving honorably. Senators Voinovich and Enzi were lost too soon. I miss them both. Should I have the honor of being confirmed, I will do my best to emulate their examples.

As I close, I want to recognize and thank in particular my CPSC colleagues. Their efforts each day to protect consumers and to achieve the CPSC's safety mission are inspiring.

If confirmed, I look forward to working with Congress, safety advocates, and all other stakeholders to advance the Commission's safety mission and continue my public service in this new role.

Again, thank you for this opportunity to appear before you today and for your consideration of my nomination. I am happy to answer any questions.