

Defective Children's Products by Lisa Parker -- Target 5

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Millions of defective children's products flood stores every year.

It's a dangerous situation most parents don't hear about until after some children have been injured, even killed. Now, a law aims to fix the problem before products hit the shelves.

The car you drive, the clothes you wear, even the furniture you sit on; all have more rigid safety testing standards than most of the items you buy for children.

This comes as a source of surprise for consumers who assume that if a children's product is on the shelf, it must have met safety standards. Standards that simply don't exist.

Three and a half years after his death, the legacy of Danny Keysar may very well be preventing similar tragedy. The Chicago toddler died when a portable crib collapsed on him. It was a crib recalled years earlier and already blamed in the deaths of four others.

"Clearly with enough testing, mandatory testing, human factor testing of what a child would do in a crib...would have shown that flaw," said Nancy Cowles with Kids in Danger.

Kids in Danger is the organization started in Danny's memory and has been working to change that void. Their plea for help finally is falling on the ears of lawmakers.

Illinois Congresswoman Jan Schakowsky is sponsoring a bill that would require testing for all infant products. The type of products blamed for an estimated 87 children deaths and more than 31,000 injuries each year.

"We don't want to use our kids as crash dummies, as guinea pigs," said Schakowsky. "We want to know before hand."

Under the bill, the Consumer Product Safety Commission would set up a panel to revise and implement new standards. They would also require manufacturers to get products tested by independent inspectors before they reach store shelves.

"We're probably addressing the problem too late for Danny's family and for other families, but I'm hoping we can move quickly and...it becomes law very soon," Schakowsky said.

Kids in Danger was also instrumental in getting a state law passed in Illinois, outlawing the sale or lease of previously recalled products. The bill also requires DCFS to check for recalled products as part of its child-care licensing procedure.