

**DEPUTY MAJORITY LEADER
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LEGISLATIVE COMMISSION ON THE
DEVELOPMENT OF RURAL RESOURCES

**THE SENATE
STATE OF NEW YORK**



**SENATOR PATTY RITCHIE
48TH DISTRICT
OSWEGO, JEFFERSON, ST. LAWRENCE COUNTIES**

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June 28, 2016

Honorable Rossana Rosado
Secretary of State
New York Department of State
One Commerce Plaza
99 Washington Avenue
Albany, NY 12231-0001

Dear Ms. Rosado:

It's estimated that every two weeks, a child dies in the United States when a television, piece of furniture or an appliance falls on top of them. Many families don't realize the hidden dangers posed by unstable furniture, and don't consider taking steps necessary to protect young children until it's too late.

Earlier this week, the international retail furniture chain Ikea recalled 27 million of its dressers and chests following the death of another toddler resulting from a piece of their unstable furniture. According to the Consumer Product Safety Commission, to date, at least six children have lost their lives due to the retailer's furniture since 1989, with the most recent incident occurring in February of this year. In addition, it's estimated that over three-dozen children have been injured by Ikea chests and dressers.

REPLY TO: **ALBANY OFFICE:** ROOM 412 LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BUILDING, ALBANY, NEW YORK 12247 (518) 455-3438
 JEFFERSON COUNTY OFFICE: 317 WASHINGTON STREET, ROOM 418, WATERTOWN, NEW YORK 13601 (315) 782-3418
 OSWEGO COUNTY OFFICE: 46 EAST BRIDGE STREET, FIRST FLOOR, OSWEGO, NEW YORK 13126 (315) 342-2057
 ST. LAWRENCE COUNTY OFFICE: 330 FORD STREET, OGDENSBURG, NEW YORK 13669 (315) 393-3024

E-MAIL: RITCHIE@NYSenate.GOV

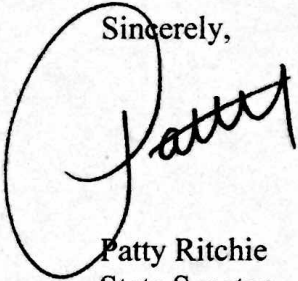
WEBSITE: RITCHIE.NYSenate.GOV



While this recall is a step in the right direction, the fact remains that many families throughout the country—and right here in New York State—have these dressers and chests in their homes. Last year, I was proud to sponsor a new law—along with Assemblyman Jeffrey Dinowitz—that resulted in the Department of State, Division of Consumer Protection launching a public awareness campaign to notify parents and consumers of the dangers of furniture tip-over incidents. The online campaign created by the Division is helping to spread the word, but the legislation envisioned a more aggressive effort to prevent tragedy. This recall is an urgent reminder of the need to redouble our efforts and I am respectfully requesting that the Division enhance the aforementioned campaign, to help make consumers across our state more aware of the dangers posed by Ikea furniture, and other pieces of furniture prone to tip-over.

We have a responsibility to spread the word about this recall, and the dangers posed by unstable furniture. Thank you in advance for your consideration in this request, which I believe will help us save the lives of innocent children across our state.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Patty", is written over a large, hand-drawn oval. The signature is fluid and cursive.

Patty Ritchie
State Senator