

**Testimony of Susan Cirigliano**  
**Before the House Committee on Energy and Commerce**  
**Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations**  
**“Crib Safety: Assessing the Need for Better Oversight”**  
**January 21, 2010**

We are Robert and Susan Cirigliano also known as Daddy and Mommy. But we have only heard three of our four children call us that because our son Bobby never had the chance. On September 15, 2004 Bobby was six months and three days old when his head and neck were caught in the detached side rail of his crib. After the drop side rail detached Bobby's head was caught between the side rail and the mattress. With his face pressed against the mattress, he suffocated. Bobby was taken from his crib, put into an ambulance, arrived at the hospital and never came home.

We missed Bobby everyday but what is most important is what Bobby misses. Bobby has an older sister who never had the chance to teach him how to get in and out of trouble. Bobby has a younger brother and sister that he has never met. Bobby has two grandfathers that he never played catch with. Two grandmothers whose cookies he was never able to taste. Bobby never had a chance to wear his first Halloween costume. He didn't get to sit on Santa's lap and never blew out a birthday candle.

Our smiles have dulled and our family will never be complete again. Other than Mommy and Daddy's arms Bobby was in one of the safest places - his crib. The reality is his crib was not safe and our lives will never be the same. We refuse to allow any other family to suffer the pain we have.

While we are happy to hear about the millions of crib recalls we are convinced that the only answer is a complete ban on drop side cribs.

We do not believe that parents realize the severity of placing their children to sleep in a drop side crib. The one place that you would leave your child alone has become a threat. If they cannot purchase a drop side crib they would have no option but to purchase a stationary crib.

Another reason we feel strongly about the ban is the CPSC's approach with the recalls. We do not believe a repair is the answer. If a crib has the ability to kill a child it should not be manufactured. The recalls are downplaying the number of children that have been suffocated in a drop side crib. Our son Bobby was not included in the CPSC's reports. Their reason for this is the location his drop side rail detached was not the same as the other infants. Our problem with this is the investigator's report stated the bottom left rail was not secure while Bobby's rail detached on the lower right side. The point is bottom left, bottom right Bobby was asphyxiated and died when his drop side rail detached and he was trapped between the mattress and the side rail just like infants before him and just like infants after him. The number of infants reported should not be determined by where the rail detaches but by the end result.

We have in the last five months worked with Legislation in Suffolk County having a bill passed banning the sale of dropside cribs. We have worked with Nassau County Legislation banning

the sale of dropside cribs and are awaiting the bill signing. We are currently working with Rockland County Legislation to have the ban passed there also.

We appreciated Congress inviting us to be here today to share our story. We hope you think of Bobby while you determine how to keep our babies safe. We are all they have. Their lives depend on it. Thank you.