

## 2.24 Furniture Tip-Over Prevention

*Resolution passed 2020*

**Whereas**, in the U.S. furniture tip-over incidents result in a child visiting the emergency room every 37 minutes, and one child dying every 11 days per the United States Consumer Product Safety Commission; and

**Whereas**, use of tip restraints or furniture anchors is an effective way to prevent tip-overs, but only 27% of Americans anchor their furniture per Consumer Reports; and

**Whereas**, the current federal furniture manufacturing standard for clothing storage units is voluntary and insufficient to prevent child injuries and death as shown by research conducted by Kids in Danger and Shane's Foundation; and

**Whereas**, state legislatures can pass laws regulating furniture safety and New York state passed laws in 2019 prohibiting the sale of new clothing furniture units that do not meet the voluntary standard and requiring all heavy furniture and televisions to be anchored in public spaces for children, including daycare facilities, foster care homes, and schools; and

**Whereas**, current federal legislation, the STURDY Act (Stop Tip-overs of Unstable, Risky Dressers on Youth), has been introduced in the U.S. House and Senate and would require new mandatory safety standards for all free-standing clothing storage units, and testing that more closely simulates real world use including to account for impact on clothing storage unit stability of carpeting, drawers with items in them, multiple open drawers, dynamic force and use by children up to 72 months of age and 60 pounds.

**Therefore, be it**

**Resolved**, that Washington State PTA and its local PTAs and councils shall support child safety through advocacy for the STURDY Act and other applicable federal legislation; and be it further

**Resolved**, that Washington State PTA and its local PTAs and councils shall support and advocate for state legislation to require sale of anchoring kits with new furniture units, to require anchoring of furniture and televisions in public spaces including, but not limited to, childcare/daycare facilities, schools, and foster care facilities, and to prohibit sale of new furniture that does not meet anti-tip safety standards; and be it further

**Resolved**, that Washington State PTA encourages its local PTAs and councils to educate families and the community about the dangers of unanchored furniture in their homes and public spaces.