

## Consumer Product Safety Law



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### Republican Anne Northup Tapped to Fill Final CPSC Commissioner Spot

[Kerrie L. Campbell](#)

President Obama has nominated [Anne Northup](#), a former Republican Representative from Kentucky, to the only remaining vacancy on the five-member Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) panel. Northup served in the U.S. House of Representatives from 1997 to 2006 and established a strong conservative record. She served in the Kentucky House of Representatives from 1987 to 1996. Northup's nomination was recommended to the President by Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky. Described by the White House as "an aggressive advocate for education reform," Northup graduated from Saint Mary's College in 1970 with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Economics and Business.

#### The Long Road to Five

When the CPSC was formed in 1972, the Consumer Product Safety Act (CPSA) authorized the agency to consist of five members appointed by the President and confirmed by the Senate. Starting in 1986 and lasting until the enactment of the Consumer Product Safety Improvement Act of 2008 (CPSIA), an appropriations rider limited CPSC funding to only three commissioners. From July 2006 through July 2009, the agency operated with only two commissioners, Republican Nancy Nord and Democrat Thomas Moore. President Obama has moved quickly to fill vacancies, nominating two Democrats in May of this year, Chairman [Inez Tenenbaum](#) (confirmed and sworn-in) and Commissioner nominee [David Adler](#) (awaiting confirmation). While some reports describe Northup's nomination as a "bi-partisan" choice, the law provides that no more than

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three of the commissioners shall be affiliated with the same political party.  
Confirmation hearings for both Adler and Northup are scheduled for August 5.

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**For additional information on this issue, contact:**



**[Kerrie L. Campbell](#)** Ms. Campbell specializes in consumer product safety counseling and represents major manufacturers, importers, distributors and retailers in investigation, enforcement and penalty proceedings before the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) and in matters referred to the U.S. Department of Justice. She provides advice and counsel on reporting requirements and compliance with product safety laws administered by the CPSC, including sweeping new provisions of the Consumer Product Safety Improvement Act of 2008 (CPSIA). She advises clients on product recalls, corrective actions, responses to agency inquiries and Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests. She is a member of the Advisory Board for BNA's Product Safety and Liability Reporter.

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