

Source: Product Safety & Liability Reporter: News Archive > 2017 > Latest Developments > Product Safety > Government Operations: CPSC Acting Chief Buerkle Chosen for Chairmanship

Government Operations

CPSC Acting Chief Buerkle Chosen for Chairmanship



By Martina Barash

President Donald J. Trump intends to nominate Ann Marie Buerkle, the acting chairman of the Consumer Product Safety Commission, to be the agency's chairman, the White House has announced.

Buerkle (R) has been considered a possible nominee for the chairmanship since she took over the leadership from former Chairman Elliot Kaye (D) in

February.

"Her career qualifies her remarkably to be chairman: a nurse, a lawyer, a legislator, and a mother and a grandmother," attorney Charles A. Samuels, who has a regulatory and legislative practice, told Bloomberg BNA. Samuels is with Mintz, Levin, Cohn, Ferris, Glovsky and Popeo P.C. in Washington.

All four of Buerkle's fellow commissioners signed a statement congratulating her on the nomination, which was announced July 24. Democrats will maintain a 3-2 majority on the commission until the next vacancy, expected in October 2017.

Buerkle's nomination includes a new seven-year term on the commission beginning in October 2018, when her current term expires.

Safety advocates couldn't immediately be reached for comment.

But Nancy Cowles, executive director of Kids in Danger, said at the time Buerkle became acting chairman that she "listens, takes input and wants to solve product safety problems." Kids in Danger is a safety advocacy group in Chicago.

"We might differ a little" on the importance of outreach—an approach favored by Buerkle—versus mandatory rules, Cowles said. "But I don't see any signs that she wouldn't uphold the regulations that the CPSC currently has on the books."

Buerkle said she's honored by the nomination. "Since joining CPSC in 2013 I have been actively involved in protecting consumers in collaboration with my colleagues, the dedicated staff, and all stakeholders from the product safety community," she said in a statement.

"I look forward to continuing that work and, if Senate confirmed, to the opportunity to serve as Chairman of this valuable agency," she said.

Samuels said he hopes the Senate will move quickly on the nomination. In some cases, it's not necessary to hold a hearing, he said.

The Senate Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation doesn't have a timetable yet for hearings or a vote, according to a committee spokesman.

To contact the reporter on this story: Martina Barash in Washington at MBarash@bna.com

To contact the editor responsible for this story: Steven Patrick at spatrick@bna.com

Snapshot

- Nominee called well qualified, good at listening
- No timetable yet for hearing, vote

Contact us at <http://www.bna.com/contact-us> or call 1-800-372-1033

ISSN 1522-5259

Copyright © 2017, The Bureau of National Affairs, Inc.. Reproduction or redistribution, in whole or in part, and in any form, without express written permission, is prohibited except as permitted by the BNA Copyright Policy.