****

**For Immediate Release**  **Contact:** Kimberly Amato

**May 30,2021** 508-868-9316

 kjpdoula@gmail.com

**Governor Charlie Baker Proclaims June 2nd Massachusetts Tip-Over Awareness Day**

**Sterling, MA –** At the request of Kimberly Amato, who founded [Meghan’s Hope](http://www.meghanshope.org) after her 3-year-old twin daughter Meghan Agnes Beck died on December 18th, 2004, from a dresser tip-over, while the rest of her family was asleep, Governor Charlie Baker has proclaimed June 2nd Massachusetts Tip-Over Awareness Day.

According to the [U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission’s 2020 Tip-Over Report](https://www.cpsc.gov/s3fs-public/2020_Tip_Over_Report.pdf?nhwAgmMt9YXGhkqfsN75hMCNYgBTe5OJ), from 2000-2019

* An estimated 25,000 people are treated in emergency rooms every year for injuries caused by a furniture, TV, or appliance tip-over. That is 68 people, most of whom are children, every day.
* There have been 571 reported fatalities from tip-overs related to furniture, TV’s and appliances, at least 469 of which were children.
* 82% of fatalities from furniture tip-overs involve children under 14.
* 14% of fatalities from tip-overs involve adults over 60.
* About every 46 minutes a child is taken to the E.R. with injuries sustained from a tip-over.
* About every two weeks a child dies from those injuries.

These statistics do not include the hundreds, if not thousands of annual near misses and tip-overs without serious injury that were not reported to the CPSC, in the Commonwealth and across the Nation.

Until there is a mandatory furniture stability standard, the risk of tip-overs can be significantly reduced through education and proper anchoring of furniture, TVs and appliances to the wall. Unfortunately, there are still far too many people who simply do not know about the risk of tip-overs or how to prevent them. [A Consumer Reports investigation on furniture anchoring](https://www.consumerreports.org/furniture/furniture-anchors-not-an-easy-fix-as-child-tip-over-deaths-persist/) found that less than 30% of Americans anchor furniture in their homes. Similarly, [a study by the CPSC](https://www.cpsc.gov/s3fs-public/CPSC-Anchor-It-Campaign-Effectiveness-Survey-Main-Report_Final_9_2_2020....pdf?gC1No.oOO2FEXV9wmOtdJVAtacRLHIMK) on the effectiveness of their [Anchor It!](http://www.anchorit.gov) campaign found that even if consumers are aware that furniture and TV’s can tip-over, they are not likely to take action to prevent it. This is largely because of misconceptions about the physics of instability and tip-over, the belief that it will not happen to them, or because they think they are always watching their child, so they are not at risk. This lack of awareness can and has been deadly. [This CPSC PSA](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0kzkFd1wTqI) shows how quickly tip-overs can happen.

“This proclamation is an important recognition of a very preventable but potentially deadly household hazard of furniture tip-overs. As an Injury Prevention program, UMass Memorial Children’s Medical Center applauds Governor Baker’s advocacy and Kimberly Amato’s tenacious efforts to prevent these injury events in the Commonwealth and across the country.”

Michael P. Hirsh, MD, FACS

Director, Pediatric Trauma Program of UMass Memorial Medical Children’s Medical Center

Co-Director, Injury Free Worcester.