

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

June 25, 2025

The Honorable Scott Bessent
Secretary
U.S. Department of the Treasury
1500 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20220

Dear Secretary Bessent:

We write to urge you to move swiftly to exempt essential infant and toddler products, including car seats, strollers, cribs, and highchairs, from current and future tariffs. On May 7, 2025, you testified before the House Committee on Financial Services regarding the state of the international financial system. During the hearing, you acknowledged that exemptions for baby products from the Trump Administration's broad-based tariffs are "under consideration."¹ The President reaffirmed your statement the same day, stating that he would "take a look at it."² There have been more than thirty days since your testimony and no exemptions on baby products have been announced. Hence, we urge you to relieve families of the high tariffs on products they need to care for their children.

As you are aware, baby products are not optional luxury goods. They are necessities for millions of American families to ensure a safe environment for infants. Car seats are legally required in all fifty states, but more than 90% of them are made in China.³ So under the current on-again, off-again tariff regime, many of these products have seen price increases of up to 30%, placing a significant and unnecessary burden on working families.⁴ With approximately 3.5 million babies born each year in the United States, this means millions of families face steep cost increases to care for their newborns and comply with basic child safety laws.

According to BabyCenter, new parents now spend an estimated \$20,000 during their child's first year—including nearly \$1,000 on baby safety gear alone.⁵ These costs will only grow as tariff-related price hikes ripple across the supply chain. At a time when families are already struggling with the rising costs of food, housing, and healthcare, trade policies that further inflate essential childcare expenses are both counterproductive and deeply concerning.

While tariffs, when deployed strategically, can be an important tool to counter unfair trade practices, protect American workers, and rebuild domestic manufacturing, some exclusions are

¹ Trump Tariff Exemptions for Baby Products? Car Seats, Cribs May Be Spared, *USA Today* (May 7, 2025), <https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/politics/2025/05/07/trump-tariff-exemptions-baby-products-car-seats/83497122007/>.

² Ibid.

³ For Baby Strollers, There's No Way Around China Tariffs, *Wall Street Journal* (Apr. 25, 2024), <https://www.wsj.com/business/retail/for-baby-strollers-theres-no-way-around-china-tariffs-e9e7a744>.

⁴ New Parents Are Paying 24 Percent More for Five Common Baby Items Since Trump's Tariffs, *Joint Economic Committee – Minority* (June 12, 2025), https://www.jec.senate.gov/public/_cache/files/3504b51d-7046-4f30-bd8c-7176a43cef4e/new-parents-are-paying-24-percent-more-for-five-common-baby-items-since-trump-s-tariffs.pdf.

⁵ First-Year Baby Expenses Already Top \$20,000—And That's Before Tariffs, *Yahoo Finance* (Apr. 30, 2025), <https://finance.yahoo.com/news/first-baby-expenses-already-top-162004197.html>.

proper and necessary. Semiconductors, smartphones, and other products were granted exemptions. And during the first Trump Administration, the U.S. Trade Representative created exclusions for baby safety products under Section 301.⁶ That action acknowledged what parents already know: the health and safety of infants should not be collateral damage in trade policy.

We therefore urge you to immediately work with the President to exempt baby and toddler products from current and future tariffs, particularly those involving imports from China.

We appreciate your attention to this matter and respectfully request a written update on the Administration's consideration of this exemption by **July 10, 2025**. American families are depending on it.

Sincerely,



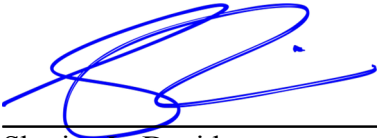
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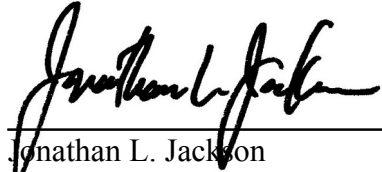


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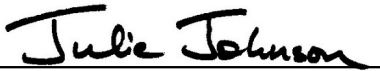
⁶ USTR Finalizes Tariffs on \$200 Billion of Chinese Imports, *Office of the United States Trade Representative* (Sept. 18, 2018), <https://ustr.gov/about-us/policy-offices/press-office/press-releases/2018/september/ustr-finalizes-tariffs-200>.



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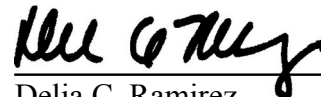
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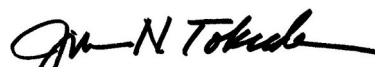
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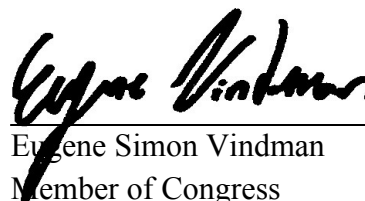
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