

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

May 8, 2025

The Honorable Jamieson Greer
United States Trade Representative
Office of the United States Trade Representative
600 17th Street NW
Washington, D.C. 20508

Dear Ambassador Greer,

I write to express my deep concerns around the financial impact this administration's exorbitant tariffs will have on our children and families. In a child's first year, parents will spend on average 31 percent of their income on child-related costs, or \$20,384.¹ The administration's 145 percent tariff on Chinese imports will cause this percentage to skyrocket and result in higher costs for new and expecting parents. It is imperative that you exempt child-related goods from these reckless tariffs to ensure that American families do not face additional unnecessary costs to care for their newborn or infant.

Parents across the country rely heavily on manufactured goods from China, particularly baby products like car seats, strollers, and cribs that are critical for child safety. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, 98 percent of car seats and 97 percent of strollers are imported from China.² Additionally, China is the leading importer of beds, walkers, highchairs, and baby appliances such as bottle sterilizers and warmers. While this administration's intended purpose for these tariffs is to help domestic manufacturers be more competitive, existing supply chain constraints limit our ability to competitively produce these goods stateside.

With the implementation of the 145 percent tariffs against China, some baby goods companies have frozen large quantities of imports from China and have started adjusting the prices of essential products parents need to bring their baby home from the hospital. According to estimates from the Juvenile Products Manufacturers Association, parents are now seeing an average increase of 30 percent for baby essentials from baby product companies including UPPAbaby, Cybex, and Valco.³ Families cannot absorb this "baby tax" and has led to fears of panic buying and the possibility that parents will turn to unsafe cost-saving alternatives, such as using expired car seats or retaining recalled items.

Parents should not be forced to choose between safety and making ends meet. It is imperative that you exempt baby safety essentials like car seats, cribs and strollers from these tariffs and we urge you to take immediate action.

Sincerely,

¹ BabyCenter Cost of Raising a Child Survey, January 2025

² Bhattarai, A., & Cocco, F. (n.d.). Trump's tariffs hit baby industry hard, threatening parents with price hikes, shortages. *The Washington Post*. Accessed 7 May 2025.

³ Ibid.

Kirsten Gillibrand

Kirsten Gillibrand
United States Senator