

## ***Support HB 3052 (McAsey) Bumper Pads: A danger in the crib***

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Bumper pads are padded bedding that attach to the sides of the crib. Marketed to decorate the crib and protect infants from minor bumps and bruises, research has linked bumper pads to dozens of infant deaths. HB 3052 bans the sale of crib bumper pads in Illinois.

### **Bumper pads pose suffocation, strangulation, choking, and fall hazards. A bare crib is a safe crib.**



This is Preston. He suffocated in 2010 when he rolled off a sleep positioner (now also banned) and against the bumper in his crib. He was eight weeks old.



This is Aiden & his grandmother. He suffocated in 2010, with his face against the bumper pad in his crib. His mother was in the room, but babies suffocate silently.



This is Brendan. He was found not breathing with his face against the bumper pad in his crib at child care. His mother, Nancy, has made baby safety her life's work.

### **HB 3052 will help keep babies safe**

The safest place for babies to sleep is in a bare crib on their backs. Bumper pads, comforters, sleep positioners and other bedding create a suffocation risk and may increase the risk of SIDS. A crib is the one place that is intended for a baby to spend time unattended. Babies have suffocated on crib bumpers -- it is an unnecessary and dangerous product. The use of bumpers is already prohibited in child care.

#### *Why are they so dangerous? Isn't it dangerous to be exposed to the bars of a crib too?*

Crib slat spacing is regulated by a mandatory standard to prevent entrapment and strangulation. No research shows a baby can push up against the crib rails with enough force to cause severe injury. However, research does show air circulation is a factor in SIDS. Bumpers create a risk of mechanical suffocation **and** reduce the airflow in the crib. Most babies who get limbs between crib slats are over the age recommended for bumpers.

#### *What about 'traditional bumpers' as defined by the ASTM International Standard. Aren't they safe?*

The ASTM standard was proposed and drafted by manufacturers of crib bumper pads. As the AAP said in their letter opposing the standard, "... the AAP cannot cast a vote in favor of measures to improve the safety of a product that we deem inherently risky and unnecessary."

#### *What do consumer, health care and safe sleep groups say about bumpers?*

Safe sleep experts have opposed the use of bumpers and other soft bedding for years. Now the belief that crib bumper pads are unnecessary and dangerous is universally held among safety experts, safe sleep organizations and health care groups. Chicago's ban on the sale of crib bumper pads has been in effect for a year and Maryland's ban is effective this June. Check out the groups that support this bill to see the widespread support for "bare is best" when it comes to cribs.

#### *Supporting Organizations:*

Sudden Infant Death Services of Illinois, Inc., Kids In Danger, IL Public Interest Research Group, Safe Kids Chicago, Safe Kids Illinois, American Academy of Pediatrics, Illinois Chapter, Illinois March of Dimes, Pathways Awareness, Illinois Maternal Child Health Coalition, and Injury Prevention and Research Center at Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago, Illinois Public Health Association.