

Support HB 5348 (Morrison) Bumper Pads: A danger in the crib

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 5348 bans the sale of crib bumper pads in Illinois.

Bumper pads pose suffocation, strangulation, choking, and fall hazards.

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

Mandatory standards on crib slate width prevent entrapment and strangulation. No research shows a baby can push up against the crib rails with hard enough to cause severe injury. However, research does show that bumpers reduced air circulation, a factor in SIDS, and create a risk for suffocation.

What about 'traditional bumpers' as defined by the ASTM International Standard. Aren't they safe? The ASTM standard was proposed 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. The AAP recommends in their safe sleep guidelines that parents not use crib bumpers as it increases the risks SIDS.

Won't this be a big change?

Bumpers are already banned in Illinois childcare, Chicago, and Maryland. This is just the next small step to protect our infants.

Won't this hurt Illinois businesses?

The bill bans padded bumpers. The effective date is January 2016, giving companies time to develop other infant products.



Preston 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.



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



Brendan 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.

