

## ***Support HB 4638 (McAsey)*** ***Bumper Pads: A danger in the crib***

Bumper pads are a soft pillow-like bedding accessory that attach to the sides of the crib. This product is marketed to decorate the crib and protect infants from minor bumps and bruises. Recent research has linked this product to at least 27 infant deaths. In September, Chicago banned the sale of crib bumper pads. Unfortunately, bumper pads continue to be ubiquitous in advertisements and baby catalogs.

**Bumper pads pose suffocation, strangulation, choking, and falling hazards to children.  
KID does not recommend bumper pads. 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.

### **HB 4638 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. SIDS of Illinois is the leading proponent of this legislation.

#### *Are there some bumpers that are safer than others?*

Mesh bumpers may not present the same level of risk of suffocation, but there is no research that shows it eliminates all the risk. We recommend against having any additional products in the crib.

#### *Is it mostly a concern for infants or older babies?*

The suffocation risk is highest for younger babies, but for older babies, the bumper pad creates a step up for babies attempting to climb out of the crib causing them to fall out.

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

There is not research that shows a baby can push up against the bare crib rails with enough force to cause severe injury. However, research shows air circulation is a factor in SIDS. Bumpers can create a risk of mechanical suffocation and reduce the airflow in the crib even if the baby's face is not pressed tightly against it.

#### *What states banned it so far?*

The City of Chicago has banned the sale of crib bumper pads as of April 2012 and Maryland has proposed a ban.

The baby's sleep environment must be as safe as possible. A crib is the one place that is intended for a baby to spend time unattended. We know babies have suffocated on crib bumpers and KID believes that it is an unnecessary and dangerous product.

KID is a nonprofit organization dedicated to protecting children by improving children's product safety.  
Learn more at [www.KidsInDanger.org](http://www.KidsInDanger.org) or [www.sidsillinois.org](http://www.sidsillinois.org)