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Illinois House passes important safety measure to ban the sale of crib bumper pads

(SPRINGFIELD) Today the Illinois House of Representatives passed House Bill 5348, otherwise known as the Illinois Crib Bumper Pad Ban. This bill would make it illegal to sell crib bumper pads within Illinois. Kids In Danger (KID) and Sudden Infant Death Services (SIDS) of Illinois Inc.—along with many other child and safety advocates—are encouraged to see Illinois legislators continue to lead the way in child product safety.

“Today the Illinois House took action to keep our children safe here in Illinois by passing this legislation.” Nancy Cowles, executive director of KID stated, “Dedicated legislators like the bill’s sponsor, Representative McAsey (D-Lockport), make sure that fewer families have to suffer through what happened to Preston and his family.”

Preston was just 18 weeks old when his mother found him pressed up against his crib bumper pad. Today marks the fourth anniversary of his death.

According to various reports, including a report by the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), crib bumper pads provide no protection from injury, while increasing the risk of suffocation, entanglement, and entrapment. There have been anywhere from a couple dozen deaths to over fifty deaths linked to crib bumper pads depending on the report. The AAP and a multitude of other safety advocates such as SIDS of Illinois and KID have warned that crib bumper pads should be removed from cribs.

“Rep. Emily McAsey has been an outspoken supporter of **Safe Sleep for Baby.**” said Nancy Maruyama, Executive Director, SIDS of Illinois, Inc. and SIDS mom. “She also carried the bills that require all birthing hospitals in IL to provide verbal and written infant safe sleep education prior to discharge of the newborn and the mandate that all licensed childcare providers must have training on Sudden and Unexpected Infant Death (SUID), Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS) and infant safe sleep.”

The Illinois Crib Bumper Pad Ban now moves to the Illinois Senate. Senator Julie Morrison (D-29th District) will pick up the bill from Rep. McAsey as Senate sponsor. Should the bill pass through the Senate, Illinois will become the second state in the US to ban the sale of crib bumper pads. Currently Maryland and the city of Chicago already ban the sale of crib bumper pads.

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