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Health & safety advocates join to support statewide ban on sale of crib bumper pads due to suffocation risk

(SPRINGFIELD, IL) Kids In Danger (KID) and SIDS of Illinois, Inc. traveled to Springfield to show support for a bill currently in the Illinois state senate that would ban the sale of dangerous crib bumper pads within the state.

Recent research from a US Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) researcher has linked crib bumper pads to dozens of infant deaths and has shown that crib bumper pads provide no protection from serious injury. The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends against their use.

“The evidence points to a link between use of bumper pads and accidental suffocation and no evidence that these pads prevent injury in children. AAP policy clearly states that children sleep safest in a crib with no soft bedding including no bumper pads” stated Kyran Quinlan, MD, MPH, FAAP.

Some argue that manufacturer standards are enough to curb these issues. However, current manufacturer standards provide no protection from the inherent suffocation, strangulation, and fall risks bumper pads create in cribs.

“We oppose relying on ASTM International standard in place of a ban of crib bumper pads,” stated Nancy Cowles, Executive Director of Kids In Danger. “The standard does not adequately address the suffocation hazard. Consumers and health care providers spoke out against these measures at every meeting but we were overruled.”

The City of Chicago banned the sale of crib bumper pads in 2012 and Maryland followed with a ban in 2013. The use of bumper pads is also prohibited in all licensed Illinois child care homes and centers.

"Illinois Action for Children supports banning baby bumpers for cribs - this bill is important because it puts into statute the best practices and safe sleep recommendations that we know are effective." said Sessy Nyman, V.P. of Policy and Strategic Partnerships, Illinois Action for Children. "We are thrilled to work with Kids In Danger to change public policies and build upon the work that child care providers are already doing in Chicago and throughout Illinois to keep the children in their care safe." AAP Crib bumper pads increase risk of suffocation, strangulation and falls from cribs. Many of the state's health and safety organizations have come out in support of HB 5348 to ban their sale in Illinois.

"When my son Brendan died, his face was pressed up against a crib bumper pad," stated Nancy Maruyama RN, BSN, Executive Director – Education and Community Outreach of SIDS of Illinois, Inc. "I have dedicated my entire life to ensuring safe sleep for infants and there is no reason for crib bumper pads to still be on store shelves. They are a danger themselves and they confuse and undermine our safe sleep message."

Group supporting HB 5348, now up for its final vote in the Senate, include:

- Illinois Attorney General Lisa Madigan
- SIDS of Illinois (Sudden Infant Death Services)
- Kids In Danger
- Illinois Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics
- Everthrive Illinois (Formerly Maternal & Child Health Coalition)
- March of Dimes
- Illinois PIRG
- Pathways
- Injury Prevention & Research Center at the Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago
- Shane's Foundation
- Cribs for Kids

The Illinois Retail Merchants Association is neutral on the bill.

"Since 1999 and the passage of the Children's Product Safety Act, Illinois has been at the forefront of children's product safety," concluded Cowles. "Illinois child care, the city of

Chicago, and the state of Maryland all already ban crib bumper pads. The state of Illinois should be a leader when it comes to protecting our children.”

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