



IMPROVING
CHILDREN'S
PRODUCT
SAFETY

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Chicago votes to ban the sale of crib bumper pads

Kids in Danger (KID), a non-profit dedicated to protecting children by improving children's product safety, applauds the Chicago City Council for today taking a necessary step towards ensuring that unsafe products are not placed in a child's sleep environment. The Chicago City Council today passed an ordinance to make it illegal to sell crib bumper pads in the city of Chicago.

"Again, Chicago has shown it is willing to be a leader when it comes to protecting children," stated Nancy Cowles, executive director of KID. "These dangerous and unnecessary products should not be on our store shelves."

Crib bumpers pads are unsafe for a baby's sleep environment. Bumper pads can cause suffocation or, in the case of older babies who can use the bumper pads as footing, falls. The only peer-reviewed study on the issue, a report published in 2007 in the journal *Pediatrics* confirmed the dangers of crib bumper pads. Using data from the Consumer Product Safety Commission's (CPSC) files, Dr. Bradley Thach, a pediatrician from Washington University in St. Louis, concluded that 27 babies' deaths between the years 1985 to 2005 could be attributed to crib bumper pads. More recent analysis from the US Consumer Product Safety Commission found dozens of incidents in which bumper pads might have contributed to deaths in cribs.

In 2010, two families who had experienced tragedy as a result of bumper pads approached Kids in Danger. Preston was seven-weeks-old when he rolled into a corner of his crib and suffocated between the bumper pad and mattress. Aiden was six months. "Talking with Preston's and Aiden's families and their grief over these boys' deaths, renewed our commitment to removing this product from the market," continued Cowles. "Because they saw this product everywhere they looked in stores, advertisements and online, they assumed not only that crib bumpers were safe, but in fact provided additional safety to their precious sons. They now tell their stories so other families don't make the same deadly mistake."

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KID was founded in 1998 by Danny Keysar's parents. Danny was killed when the crib he was sleeping in at his Chicago child care home collapsed around his neck, strangling him. The crib had been recalled five years earlier, but no one – not his parents, his caregiver or the state inspector who had been there just days earlier – knew of its danger. At that time, the Chicago City Council took the courageous step to be the first legislative body in the country to ban the sale of recalled products – the Secondhand Dealers Ordinance. Illinois and other states soon followed suit and finally – 10 years later—Congress banned the sale of recalled products in 2008. Chicago is again a leader in children's product safety by voting today to ban the sale of crib bumper pads, an unnecessary and dangerous product.

SIDS Illinois and their executive director, Nancy Maruyama worked with the bill's sponsors on this crucial legislation. Nancy's son Brendan died with his face against a crib bumper pad.

Alderman Balcer (11) and Alderman Cardenas (12) were the ordinance's sponsors. More information can be found at www.chicago.legistar.com. The ban becomes effective in six months.