

Support HB 3761 (Harmon) Crib Bumper Pad Ban

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. This bill bans the sale of crib bumper pads in Illinois.

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

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.



This is Brendan. He 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.

Although not all babies suffocate on bumper pads, the families of infants that do die suffer unnecessarily.

This bill 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. A crib is the one place that is intended for a baby to spend time unattended. Babies have suffocated on crib bumpers -- it is an unnecessary and dangerous product.

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

Crib slat spacing is regulated by a mandatory standard to prevent entrapment and strangulation. No research shows a baby can push up against the crib rails with enough force to cause severe injury. However, research does show air circulation is a factor in SIDS. Bumpers create a risk of mechanical suffocation **and** reduce the airflow in the crib. Most babies who get limbs between crib slats are over the age recommended for bumpers.

What about 'traditional bumpers' as defined by the ASTM International Standard. Aren't they safe?

The ASTM standard was proposed and drafted 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." The bumper pads that meet this standard have been involved in deaths.

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. Chicago's ban on the sale of crib bumper pads has been in effect for a year and Maryland's ban is effective this June. Check out the groups that support this bill to see the widespread support for "bare is best" when it comes to cribs.

Won't this be a big change?

The use of bumpers is already prohibited in Illinois child care and Chicago currently bans the sale of crib bumper pads in city limits. Banning the sale of bumpers throughout the state is the next small step to protect our infants.



Organizations Supporting the HB3761 Ban on Bumper Pads



Illinois Attorney General Lisa Madigan
Sudden Infant Death Services (SIDS) of Illinois, Inc.
Kids In Danger
Illinois Action for Children
Illinois Association for the Education of Young Children
Illinois Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics
EverThrive Illinois, (Formerly Illinois Maternal & Child Health Coalition)
March of Dimes
Illinois PIRG (Public Interest Research Group)
Pathways
Injury Prevention & Research Center at
Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago
Shane's Foundation
Cribs for Kids
SafeKids
The Ounce of Prevention Fund
Mom+Baby
Sergeant Shriver Center on Poverty Law
Metropolitan Family Services
Fight Crime: Invest in Kids,
Voices for Illinois Children
Children's Home and Aid
Latino Policy Forum
SEIU Health Care Illinois Indiana

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