



Oregon

Kate Brown, Governor



Oregon Department of Human Services

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April 2, 2021

Chair Power
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Members of the House Committee on Early Childhood

From: Rebecca Jones Gaston, Child Welfare Director, ODHS

Re: Support for House Bill 3379, Relating to crib bumpers

Introduction:

Thank you for consideration of HB 3379. We're submitting testimony in support of the ban on crib bumper pads; too many of Oregon's children are lost due to preventable sleep related death and Child Welfare has a critical role in supporting families to reduce this risk. Having soft objects, such as crib bumper pads, in the infant's sleep area increases risk for Sudden Infant Death Syndroms (SIDS) or suffocation.

Background: In 2017 Child Welfare identified sleep related death as a systemic issue impacting the safety and well-being of children in Oregon who come in contact with Child Welfare. It is the data that tells the story:

Regarding the number of infant deaths brought to the attention of Child Welfare:

- In 2019, of 48 infant deaths, in 34 (70.83%) the circumstances involved high-risk sleep practices.
- In 2020, of 40 infant deaths, in 23 (57.5%) the circumstances involved high-risk sleep practices.

Regarding infant deaths assigned by the ODHS Director to have an extensive review by a Critical Incident Review Team (CIRT) as outlined in ORS 418.806 to 418.816:

- In 2019, of 17 CIRTs involving infants, in 13 (76.47%) the circumstances involved high-risk sleep practices.
- In 2020, of 19 CIRTs involving infants, in 14 (73.68%), the circumstances involved high-risk sleep practices.

Child Welfare's safe sleep education, training and related prevention efforts are consistent with the safe sleep guidelines developed by the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) and promote a sleep area that is free and clear. The curriculum also covers how new safety standards for crib

“Assisting People to Become Independent, Healthy and Safe”

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slats, set by the Consumer Product Safety Commission, means crib bumper pads are not necessary to prevent head entrapment.

Consistent messaging across Oregon's family serving professionals is essential for effective prevention. This is why Child Welfare has partnered with other state agencies and Oregon's family serving professionals in these efforts to support family's in keeping infants safe for every sleep.

What this bill does: The passage of HB 3379 reinforces the messaging to Oregon's families to place infants on a sleep surface free and clear of potential suffocation hazards. When these crib bumper pads are for sale it confuses the message and, therefore, places infants at risk.

Summary: Eliminating preventable infant sleep related death in Oregon requires a community response and a ban on crib bumper pads is a critical step in creating safe sleep environments for Oregon's infants. Child Welfare supports this bill and respectfully requests your support as well.

For more information please contact:

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