



My name is Stephanie Winters, Executive Director of the American Academy of Pediatrics Vermont Chapter & Deputy Executive Director, Vermont Medical Society. **I am pleased that the committee has taken an interest in S.65 and I am here to speak in strong support of a bill that would keep our infants safer and prevent injury and deaths.**

Dr. Rebecca Bell, a pediatric critical care physician has already testified in front of the committee as to why this legislation is so important. I am here to reiterate why Vermont needs to pass this bill.

Dr. Bell sent you this timeline of some of the studies, papers and reports that have come out on the dangers of crib bumpers. To date, Maryland, Ohio, Chicago and a town in NJ have banned crib bumpers.

I wanted to highlight some of the words from the reports:

“no evidence that bumper pads prevent injury” 2011 AAP Safe Sleep Guidelines

“no substantial basis to justify the use of bumper pads” 2012 State of Maryland

“clear risk of injury or death associated with crib bumpers” Nov.2016 US Consumer Product Safety Commission

And just 6 months later

“the public should stop using padded crib bumpers. The overwhelming evidence shows they do nothing more than contribute to the deadly clutter in cribs” and “based on the real risk they present, it is a mystery to me why the continue to be made and sold” May 2017 Commissioner of the US Consumer Product Safety Commission

As you can tell from the timeline and these quotes the urgency is increasing.

Using data reported to the Consumer Product Safety Commission, an independent federal regulatory agency that oversees consumer products, the study found that 23 babies died over a seven-year span between 2006 and 2012 from suffocation attributed to a crib bumper. That's three times higher than the average number of deaths in the three previous seven-year time spans. In total 48 babies' deaths were attributed to crib bumpers between 1985 and 2012. An additional 146 infants sustained injuries from the bumpers, including choking on the bumper ties or nearly suffocating.

Parents and caregivers are confused. According to a Qualitative Research Report on Vermont Infant Safe Sleep from December 2017 - Parents know less about safety guidelines for sleep accessories, citing confusion about the safety of crib bumpers, because they did not understand why an unsafe product would be sold.

That is where we can step in and send a clear message that crib bumpers have no place in a crib and are a risk to the life of our infants. This is where we can do the right thing and support S.65.

Thank you.

Resources:

<http://www.healthvermont.gov/safesleep>

http://www.healthvermont.gov/sites/default/files/documents/pdf/CYF_SS_poster.pdf

<https://kidsindanger.org/family-voices/>