

## RESOLUTION

Subject: Support for Education and Awareness of Sudden Infant Death Syndrome

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Referred to: Reference Committee

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WHEREAS, Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS) is defined as an unexpected death of an infant under one year old, and is responsible for more infant deaths than any other causes during infancy<sup>1</sup>; and

WHEREAS, the leading theory for what causes SIDS is infant exposure to triggers such as unsafe sleep positions, unsafe sleep environments, and maternal smoking<sup>2</sup>; and

WHEREAS, research has shown a decreased risk of SIDS by having an infant sleep on their back, sleep without bedding or soft cushions, and reducing exposure to cigarette smoke<sup>3</sup>; and

WHEREAS, it was found that bedding in the sleeping environment of an infant increases SIDS risk fivefold and the risk increases to 21-fold when the infant is placed prone<sup>3</sup>; and

WHEREAS, research has shown that after the initiation of the “Back-to-Sleep” campaign (now termed “Safe-to-Sleep”) in 1993, rates of infants sleeping on their back increased from 17% to 73% leading to a decrease of 2,063 infant deaths per year from SIDS<sup>4</sup>; and

WHEREAS, the crude infant mortality rate by SIDS in the United States is 91.7 while Kentucky’s is 133.3 per 100,000 live births, which is the 9<sup>th</sup> highest in the nation<sup>5</sup>; and

WHEREAS, there are 14 states that have laws requiring SIDS education programs for parents and healthcare providers in hospitals and/or daycares, Kentucky currently has neither <sup>6</sup>; and

WHEREAS, the AMA supports the education of parents in safe sleep practices to eliminate Sudden Infant Death Syndrome risk factors (H-245.977)<sup>7</sup>; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that KMA supports the Safe-to-Sleep campaign to reduce Sudden Infant Death Syndrome by educating parents of young infants about the benefits of infants sleeping on their backs, avoiding soft bedding in the crib with infants, and refraining from smoking around young infants or pregnant women; and be it further

RESOLVED, that KMA supports promoting awareness and educating parents and/or caregivers, health care professionals, and childcare professionals regarding safe practices to reduce Sudden Infant Death Syndrome by eliminating the risk factors associated.

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References:

- <sup>1</sup> Task Force on Infant Sleep Position and Sudden Infant Death Syndrome. Changing Concepts of Sudden Infant Death Syndrome: Implications for Infant Sleeping Environment and Sleep Position. *Pediatrics*. 2000;105(3):650-656. doi:[10.1542/peds.105.3.650](https://doi.org/10.1542/peds.105.3.650)
- <sup>2</sup> Corwin MJ. Patient education: Sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS) (Beyond the Basics). UpToDate. <https://www.uptodate.com/contents/sudden-infant-death-syndrome-sids-beyond-the-basics>. Accessed July 13, 2021.
- <sup>3</sup> Syndrome TF on SID. SIDS and Other Sleep-Related Infant Deaths: Updated 2016 Recommendations for a Safe Infant Sleeping Environment. *Pediatrics*. 2016;138(5). doi:[10.1542/peds.2016-2938](https://doi.org/10.1542/peds.2016-2938)
- <sup>4</sup> Reducing Sudden Infant Death with. AAP.org. Accessed July 13, 2021. <http://www.aap.org/en-us/advocacy-and-policy/aap-health-initiatives/7-great-achievements/Pages/Reducing-Sudden-Infant-Death-with-Back-to-.aspx>
- <sup>5</sup> Data and Statistics for SIDS and SUID | CDC. Published April 29, 2021. Accessed July 13, 2021. <https://www.cdc.gov/sids/data.htm>
- <sup>6</sup> Sudden Infant Death Syndrome Laws. Accessed July 13, 2021. <https://www.ncsl.org/research/health/sudden-infant-death-syndrome-laws.aspx>
- <sup>7</sup> H-245.977 Sudden Infant Death Syndrome | AMA. Accessed July 13, 2021. <https://policysearch.ama-assn.org/policyfinder/detail/SIDS?uri=%2FAMADoc%2FHOD.xml-0-1719.xml>