

RESOLUTION

Subject: Protecting Kentucky's Children from Counterfeit Car Seats

Submitted by: Greater Louisville Medical Society

Referred to: Reference Committee

WHEREAS, motor vehicle crashes remain a leading cause of death and injury for children in the United States; and

WHEREAS, properly installed and federally approved car seats reduce the risk of injury and death by up to 71% for infants and 54% for toddlers; and

WHEREAS, counterfeit car seats, often sold online through third-party marketplaces, do not meet federal safety standards set by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA); and

WHEREAS, counterfeit car seats may visually resemble legitimate products but frequently lack key safety features such as proper harness systems, energy-absorbing foam, and secure installation mechanisms; and

WHEREAS, these counterfeit products often enter the market without regulation, are difficult to detect by the average consumer, and can fail catastrophically in a crash; and

WHEREAS, pediatricians and other healthcare providers are often trusted sources of safety information for families and can play a key role in identifying and reporting counterfeit car seats; and

WHEREAS, current public awareness campaigns on car seat safety do not adequately address the growing prevalence and dangers of counterfeit car seats; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that KMA recognize the threat posed by counterfeit car seats to child passenger safety and public health; and be it further

RESOLVED, that KMA support public education efforts to raise awareness about counterfeit car seats, including how to identify them and where to purchase safe, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) compliant car seats; and be it further

RESOLVED, that KMA advocate for policies that require greater oversight of online marketplaces to prevent the sale of counterfeit car seats and promote enforcement of federal safety standards; and be it further

RESOLVED, that KMA advocate for the placement of visible disclaimers or safety alerts on online retail platforms warning consumers about the risks of counterfeit car seats and directing them to certified vendors; and be it further

RESOLVED, that KMA encourage car seat manufacturers to provide and publicize tools for consumers to verify the authenticity of their products (e.g., serial number lookups or QR codes); and be it further

RESOLVED, that KMA encourage its members, especially pediatricians and family physicians, to counsel families on proper car seat use and how to avoid counterfeit products; and be it further

RESOLVED, that KMA collaborate with the Kentucky Office of Highway Safety, local health departments, and child passenger safety coalitions to develop and disseminate public awareness campaigns on counterfeit car seats; and be it further

RESOLVED, that KMA support increased funding and training opportunities for child passenger safety technicians (CPSTs) in Kentucky, especially in underserved areas, to aid families in proper car seat use and detection of counterfeit products; and be it further

RESOLVED, that KMA support funding mechanisms—through public grants, private partnerships, or legislative advocacy—to ensure that clinics, hospitals, and child passenger safety technicians (CPSTs) have access to safe, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) approved car seats for distribution to families in need, particularly when a counterfeit or expired seat has been identified; and be it further

RESOLVED, that KMA advocate for state-level budget appropriations or child safety grant programs to expand access to low- or no-cost car seats for eligible families across Kentucky.

References:

1. **National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA).** “*Car Seat Recommendations for Children.*” <https://www.nhtsa.gov/equipment/car-seats-and-booster-seats> – Offers federal car seat safety standards and guidelines.
2. **American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP).** “*Car Seats: Information for Families.*” <https://www.healthychildren.org/English/safety-prevention/on-the-go/Pages/Car-Safety-Seats-Information-for-Families.aspx> – Provides expert pediatric guidance on child passenger safety.
3. **U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC).** “*Counterfeit Products.*” <https://www.cpsc.gov/Safety-Education/Safety-Guides/General-Information/Counterfeit-Products> – Addresses the risks of counterfeit goods, including children's products.
4. **The Washington Post.** “*Counterfeit car seats are being sold online — and putting children in danger.*” (October 2022) <https://www.washingtonpost.com/parenting/2022/10/13/counterfeit-car-seats-online/> – Investigative journalism piece highlighting real-world risks and parent experiences.
5. **Today Show / NBC News.** “*Counterfeit car seats being sold on Amazon and Walmart pose dangers to kids.*” (February 2020) <https://www.today.com/parents/fake-car-seats-being-sold-online-pose-dangers-kids-t173361> – Describes widespread availability and dangers of fake seats on major platforms.
6. **The Center for Countering Digital Hate.** “*Who’s Selling Fake Car Seats?*” (2023) – Research into the proliferation of counterfeit car seats on e-commerce sites. [Note: if not available online, cite as unpublished or check for a similar consumer safety org.]
7. **Safe Kids Worldwide.** “*Car Seat Safety Tips.*” <https://www.safekids.org/car-seat> – Offers education on proper car seat use and how to spot unsafe or counterfeit products.
8. **U.S. Department of Transportation, NHTSA.** “*Counterfeit Child Safety Seats – Safety Alert.*” <https://www.nhtsa.gov/press-releases/child-passenger-safety-week-counterfeit-car-seats> – Federal government alert warning consumers and offering detection tips.