



Oregon Pediatric Society

A Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics. Incorporated in Oregon

DATE: April 30, 2021

TO: Senator Chuck Riley, Chair;
Senator Bill Hansell, Vice Chair;
and Members of the Senate Committee on Labor and Business

FROM: Ryan Hassan, MD, MPH, FAAP
Member of the Oregon Pediatric Society

SUBJECT: Support for HB 3379 – Removing Crib Bumpers from the Marketplace

Dear Chair Riley and Members of the Senate Committee on Labor and Business,

I am a pediatrician working in Clackamas writing to voice my strong support for HB 3379. I urge you to vote yes to restrict the use of bumpers pads in infant beds and cribs.

This is a very simple issue of prioritizing children's lives over corporate profits. There are no other relevant factors to take into account. There is no evidence of any benefit whatsoever of having bumpers or other products that attach to crib slats or sides in infant cribs. There is significant evidence that these products are directly contributing to many of the 3,600 cases of Sudden Unexpected Infant Death that occur each year in the US.

Crib safety standards require crib slat spacing to be less than 2 3/8 inches, which means that there is no longer any risk for head entrapment, and so padded crib bumpers are completely unnecessary.

This is not an issue of consumer choice. Parents who buy these products are under the mistaken impression that they are safe, because they are on store shelves being sold as safety products. Parents are being lied to by manufacturers whose sole concern is making a profit. As a pediatrician, I do my best to educate families about all of the possible dangers to their child's health, but that is not enough. Parents should not have to wonder each time they buy a product whether that product could kill their child. They should not have to remember to ask their daycare providers whether the cribs that they use have bumper pads on them that could suffocate their infant.

The only reason this is still an issue for discussion is because there are people who make money by selling these products, and they want to keep making money. Our government has a duty to protect the public from corporate greed. We failed to act for decades when leaded gasoline was found to threaten our children's health, and we are still living in the legacy of that failure, with millions of children with unhealthy levels of lead exposure because it is in the soil in their schools now. We waited for thousands of children to die in car crashes before requiring child car seats and seat belts in cars. We allowed lung cancer to become the second most common cause



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of cancer before forcing tobacco companies to appropriately label their products as cancer-causing, and now we are having the same fight again with electronic nicotine delivery systems. In all of these instances, the common denominator is that the profits of giant corporations were prioritized over the well-being of our children and the public in general. No one should be allowed to make money by selling products that consistently kill children.

Thank you.

Ryan Hassan, MD, MPH