



January 30, 2020

To: Public Health and Welfare Committee
From: Christy Schunn, LSCSW, Executive Director, Kansas Infant Death and SIDS Network

Senator Suellentrop and Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony for Senate Bill 312 .

KIDS Mission

Briefly, The Kansas Infant Death and SIDS (KIDS) Network was incorporated July 1998 as a private non-profit organization. Our mission is to serve those who are or may be touched by the tragedy of infant death or SIDS by providing supportive services, community education, professional training, and supporting associated research. Since the KIDS Network incorporation, the Network has provided statewide Safe Sleep education and therapeutic bereavement services to bereft families. With the identification of our state's high infant mortality rate, the KIDS Network has strategically focused on providing services to address the need for safe sleep education with health care providers, parents and caregivers and child care providers.

Community solution

The KIDS Network uses a collaborative approach to reduce preventable infant deaths. This means we work collectively to provide safe sleep education for all who care for infants and children. Historically, the Network supported child care legislation and regulation requiring safe sleep education and increased supervision to reduce sleep-related deaths for licensed providers. We know there is a greater risk of infant death when a child care provider does not comply with the law and operates without a license issued by Kansas Department of Health and Environment. SB 312 is intended to deter illegal child care operations and increase the number of licensed and inspected child care facilities.

The Network will continue to provide education and training to child care providers, but it is through the licensing process that said education can be delivered. It is our hope that KDHE will be granted the authority to further deter illegal care and influence compliance with licensure requirements so safe sleep education can be applied for all infants receiving care away from their home and parents.

Thank you for the opportunity to speak on behalf of our most vulnerable population.

Christy Schunn, LSCSW, Executive Director

300 W. Douglas, Suite 145
Wichita, KS 67202

(T) 316.682.1301
(TF) 1.866.399.7437
(FAX) 316.682.1274
(W) www.kidsks.org
(E) info@kidsks.org

