



March 22, 2017

## **Senate Public Health and Welfare Committee**

### **Testimony in Support of House Bill 2304**

Chairwoman Schmidt and Members of the Committee,

The Kansas Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics (KAAP) represents over 90 percent of the practicing pediatricians in the state. The KAAP has the fundamental goal that all children in Kansas have the opportunity to grow safe and strong. We support House Bill 2304. We urge the committee to support the bill and advance it to the full Senate.

We know Kansas data indicates from 2011-2015, 206 (17%) infant deaths in our state are related to Sudden Unexplained Infant Deaths (SUIDS) most of which are sleep related. The American Academy of Pediatrics released evidence based recommendations in October of 2016 to reduce the risk of sleep related infant deaths. These recommendations include:

- Placing infants on their back for sleep.
- Use of a firm sleep surface.
- Removal of soft objects and loose bedding away from the infants sleep area.
- Removal of toys and other items that could cause suffocation from the infant sleep area.

It is clear, particularly with the House Committee amendments addressing our recommendations, that House Bill 2304 would be an important step in prevention of sleep related infant deaths in our state. Thank you for your time and attention. We welcome any questions you might have and are happy to serve as your resource on pediatric issues.

Submitted by  
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