

November 15, 2016

Dear Chairman Sprague,

National Council of Jewish Women/Cleveland highly recommends passage of SB 332.

In a highly respected study, published in Feb. 16, 2011's *The Journal of Pediatrics* of infant deaths in cribs, 42 were specifically attributed to crib bumpers on the death certificate, autopsy or investigation and diagnosed by the medical examiners or pathologists as asphyxia or suffocation. Six additional deaths were cited as likely bumper-related.

Despite recommendations against bumper pads dating back to 2007, from organizations such as The US Consumer Product Safety Commission, The American Academy of Pediatrics, The National Institutes of Health, there are no federal regulations for crib bumpers. There is, however, a long standing industry voluntary standard that has been publicized widely. Nonetheless, deaths have not decreased because bumpers remain widely available in the marketplace. Manufacturers are not complying with the voluntary standard requirement established. Even decreasing bumper thickness, mandated in 2012, has not reduced bumper-pad caused deaths.

Now that crib regulations, have reduced the space between slats to enable discontinuation of bumper pads, we, the National Council of Jewish Women/Cleveland, strongly support legislation to eliminate sale of bumper pads. In our travels to explore the sale of bumper pads, we have found popular chain stores unwilling to give up the profit from sale of bumper pads, even with statistics presented.

The highly esteemed Cleveland Clinic's position is that no bumper has ever been proven to be necessary or safe, but pieces and parts of bumpers have been found within babies' airways.

National Council of Jewish women/Cleveland is on the forefront of drawing attention to Infant Mortality. We are educating our participants on new safety standards for safe infant care. We strongly support the need for a law prohibiting the sale of bumper pads based on scientific evidence of their danger and recommendations of organizations with strong credentials in the field.

Sincerely,

Cyndy Fellenbaum,

co-chair, NCJW's Committee on Reproductive Justice and Infant Morality