



June 28, 2019

Honorable Tony Cárdenas
U.S. House of Representatives
2438 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Honorable Richard Blumenthal
U.S. Senate
706 Hart Senate Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Representative Cárdenas and Senator Blumenthal:

We write in support of your bills, HR 3172 and S 1767, the Safe Sleep Act of 2019. The legislation would prohibit the manufacture and sale of sleepers with an inclined surface greater than 10 degrees.

The sale of the popular Fisher-Price Rock 'n Play has caused a great deal of concern among parents and those of us in the child safety community. After learning that 10 infants had died from the Rock 'n Play's use since 2015, the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) and Fisher-Price issued a warning about the sleeper on April 5, 2019.¹ Then, there were reports that over 30 infants had died in such sleepers since its introduction in 2009 leading to a recall.² Five-month-old Ezra Overton was one of those children. His parents Keenan and Evan awoke to find the boy sleeping on his stomach "with his nose squished into the back of the seat," recalled Kennan. "I picked him up and he was like a doll." The boy had suffocated to death.³

An inclined sleeper runs counter to time-tested best practices for safe sleep involving infants. The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) recommends that babies sleep flat on their backs and on a firm, flat surface with no soft objects and loose bedding.⁴ Because of the incline of the sleepers, infants can roll over into unsafe positions and suffocate in their sleep. In the past, inclined sleepers were recommended by doctors to combat congestion and acid reflux, but AAP does not agree.

Safe Kids Worldwide is a grassroots nonprofit dedicated to protecting kids from preventable injuries, the number one cause of death to children in the United States. Safe Kids is a go-to resource to help parents keep kids safe from car crashes, fires, falls, poisoning and more. Through more than 400 coalitions in the U.S., Safe Kids works with children's hospitals, trauma centers, first responders and public health experts to get life-saving information to families. We applaud you on your leadership and look forward to assisting in the effort to pass HR 3172 and S 1767.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Anthony Green".

Anthony Green
Chief Advocacy and Network Officer

Contact: Anthony Green, 202.662.0606, agreen@safekids.org

¹ AAP News. (12 April 2019). AAP urges recall of Fisher-Price Rock n' Play following infant deaths. *AAP Publications*.

<https://www.aappublications.org/news/2019/04/12/rocknplay041219>

² Peachman, Rachel R. (16 May 2019). Fisher-Price Recalls the Rock n' Play Sleeper After It Was Tied to Infant Deaths. *Consumer Reports*. <https://www.consumerreports.org/recalls/fisher-price-recalls-rock-n-play-sleeper/>

³ Crawford, Jan. (9 April 2019). Family warns other parents after their son died in a Fisher-Price sleeper. *CBS News*.

<https://www.cbsnews.com/news/fisher-price-rock-n-play-family-warns-other-parents-after-their-son-died-in-price-sleeper/>

⁴ CDC Newsroom Releases. (9 January 2018). About 3,500 babies in the US are lost to sleep-related deaths each year. *Centers for Disease Control and Prevention*.