January 22, 2019

Honorable Gwen Moore  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2252 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Honorable Tom Cole  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2207 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Honorable Jaime Herrera Beutler  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2352 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representatives Moore, Cole and Herrera Beutler:

We join together as 78 Safe Kids Worldwide coalitions in 33 states around the nation in strong support of your proposed bipartisan legislation, Scarlett’s Sunshine Act, that provides the opportunity to significantly reduce the incidence of Sudden Unexpected Infant Death (SUID) and Sudden Unexplained Death in Childhood (SUDC). There are few things more tragic than a parent needing to arrange the funeral of their infant.

The CDC reports that an average of 3,600 infants die suddenly and unexpectedly each year. In public health, evidence is the foundation for viable solutions and prevention efforts. We need to take the “unexpected” and “unexplained” out of infant sleep death. But the present state of SUIDs research is progressing slowly at best, largely because death reporting is inconsistent. This lack of precise data is hindering progress.

Dr. Sam Hanke and his wife Maura know this tragedy. He is a pediatric cardiologist at Cincinnati Children’s Hospital and on the evening of April 27 in 2010 he was sleep-deprived from his demanding work. He laid on the couch and fell asleep with his 3-week-old son, Charlie, on his chest. Early the next morning when Dr. Hanke woke up, Charlie didn’t. Today, Sam and Maura strive to spread awareness of safe sleep techniques to other families through Charlie’s Kids Foundation, a safety organization they founded. There are many foundations organized around the loss of infants and toddlers from SUIDs.

Provisions in Scarlett’s Sunshine Act would help safe sleep advocates, public health officials and medical practitioners prevent SUIDs deaths by standardizing data collection and death reviews. It would include new grants that would enable 100 percent review of all infant deaths as well as provide training and materials for the death scene investigators. Better data would serve as a crucial springboard to developing smart solutions and spreading awareness of best practices.

An evidence-based organization, Safe Kids Worldwide is a dedicated network of more than 420 coalitions working to prevent unintentional injury, including SUIDs.

We thank you for your unwavering leadership in keeping our children safe. We look forward to working with you to pass Scarlett’s Sunshine Act.
Sincerely,

Safe Kids Minnesota
Safe Kids Mississippi
Safe Kids Grenada, Mississippi
Safe Kids Springfield, Missouri
Safe Kids St. Louis, Missouri
Safe Kids Missoula, Montana
Safe Kids Cascade County, Montana
Safe Kids New Hampshire
Safe Kids New Jersey
Safe Kids Middlesex County, New Jersey
Safe Kids New York
Safe Kids Nassau County, New York
Safe Kids Queens, New York
Safe Kids North Carolina
Safe Kids Guilford County, North Carolina
Safe Kids Grand Forks, North Dakota
Safe Kids Ohio
Safe Kids Greater Dayton, Ohio
Safe Kids Summit County, Ohio
Safe Kids Cincinnati, Ohio
Safe Kids Oklahoma
Safe Kids Tulsa, Oklahoma
Safe Kids Oregon
Safe Kids Southeastern Pennsylvania
Safe Kids Chester County, Pennsylvania
Safe Kids Rhode Island
Safe Kids South Carolina
Safe Kids Upstate, South Carolina
Safe Kids Tennessee
Safe Kids Dallas, Texas
Safe Kids El Paso, Texas
Safe Kids Virginia
Safe Kids Southwest Virginia
Safe Kids Benton-Franklin, Washington
Safe Kids Thurston County, Washington
Safe Kids Wisconsin
Safe Kids SE Wisconsin
Safe Kids Portage County, Wisconsin
Safe Kids Wood County, Wisconsin
Safe Kids Madison Area, Wisconsin