



January 23, 2019

Honorable Robert Casey Jr.  
U.S. Senate  
393 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Honorable John Isakson  
U.S. Senate  
131 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senators Casey and Isakson:

We join together as 78 Safe Kids Worldwide coalitions from 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.

Senators Casey and Isakson, 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 Alabama	Safe Kids Minnesota
Safe Kids Alaska	Safe Kids Mississippi
Safe Kids Kenai Peninsula, Alaska	Safe Kids Grenada, Mississippi
Safe Kids Sacramento, California	Safe Kids Springfield, Missouri
Safe Kids Central California	Safe Kids St. Louis, Missouri
Safe Kids Orange County, California	Safe Kids Missoula, Montana
Safe Kids Santa Barbara, California	Safe Kids Cascade County, Montana
Safe Kids Stanislaus, California	Safe Kids New Hampshire
Safe Kids California	Safe Kids New Jersey
Safe Kids LA West, California	Safe Kids Middlesex County, New Jersey
Safe Kids Santa Clara/San Mateo, California	Safe Kids New York
Safe Kids Inland Empire, California	Safe Kids Nassau County, New York
Safe Kids Colorado	Safe Kids Queens, New York
Safe Kids Colorado Springs, Colorado	Safe Kids North Carolina
Safe Kids Denver Metro, Colorado	Safe Kids Guilford County, North Carolina
Safe Kids Connecticut	Safe Kids Grand Forks, North Dakota
Safe Kids DC	Safe Kids Ohio
Safe Kids SW Florida	Safe Kids Greater Dayton, Ohio
Safe Kids Northeast Florida	Safe Kids Summit County, Ohio
Safe Kids Volusia/Flagler Counties, Florida	Safe Kids Cincinnati, Ohio
Safe Kids Seminole County, Florida	Safe Kids Oklahoma
Safe Kids Georgia	Safe Kids Tulsa, Oklahoma
Safe Kids Gainesville County, Georgia	Safe Kids Oregon
Safe Kids Greater Augusta, Georgia	Safe Kids Southeastern Pennsylvania
Safe Kids Lowndes, Georgia	Safe Kids Chester County, Pennsylvania
Safe Kids Hawaii	Safe Kids Rhode Island
Safe Kids Illinois	Safe Kids South Carolina
Safe Kids Chicago, Illinois	Safe Kids Upstate, South Carolina
Safe Kids Indiana	Safe Kids Tennessee
Safe Kids Elkhart County, Indiana	Safe Kids Dallas, Texas
Safe Kids Allen County, Indiana	Safe Kids El Paso, Texas
Safe Kids Northwest Indiana	Safe Kids Virginia
Safe Kids Indianapolis, Indiana	Safe Kids Southwest Virginia
Safe Kids Kansas	Safe Kids Benton-Franklin, Washington
Safe Kids Baltimore, Maryland	Safe Kids Thurston County, Washington
Safe Kids Massachusetts	Safe Kids Wisconsin
Safe Kids West Michigan	Safe Kids SE Wisconsin
Safe Kids Oakland County, Michigan	Safe Kids Portage County, Wisconsin
	Safe Kids Wood County, Wisconsin
	Safe Kids Madison Area, Wisconsin