



## Preventing accidental injury.

January 13, 2012

The Honorable Frank Lautenberg  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Lautenberg:

On behalf of Safe Kids Worldwide, I write to thank you for sponsoring S. 1816, the *Stillbirth and SUID Prevention, Education, and Awareness Act of 2011* and to express our strong support for it.

Statistics from the Centers for Disease Control tell the story of why the legislation is so critical. There are 4,500 Sudden Unexpected Infant Deaths ("SUID") in the United States each year, including more than 2,200 deaths from Sudden Infant Death Syndrome ("SIDS"), the most prevalent type of SUID. Of these SIDS/SUID deaths, statistics indicate that as many as 80-90 percent may be the result of unsafe sleep practices. Since the launch of the Back-to-Sleep public education campaign in 1994 by the Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD), the incidence of SIDS has declined by fifty percent. It encourages parents to make sure their infant is lying on their backs when they go to sleep.

Based on the success of the Back-to-Sleep campaign, we know that government can play a vital role in continuing to reduce the broader category of SUID. Your legislation will help to determine why American children die from the syndrome. Safe Kids is keenly aware that the inconsistent investigation and review process of SUIDs is a significant problem because several of our coalition coordinators are members of child death review teams in their states. Thus, we strongly support your efforts to improve investigation and review of SUID and Sudden Unexplained Death in Childhood (SUDC) incidents; establish best practices for the inquiries; create a national SUID and SUDC database; and raise public awareness of known risk factors for SUID and SUDC.

Safe Kids is a network of organizations working to prevent unintentional childhood injury, the leading cause of death for children ages 1 to 14. We educate families, provide safety devices to families in need and advocate for better laws to help keep children safe and healthy. On safe sleep, we have been deeply engaged in educating parents about all aspects of safe sleep environments. Young children spend long periods of time unattended in cribs and bassinets--they should be the safest places in the home and, yet, many parents are unaware of basic sleep safety measures.

We strongly support passage of S. 1816 and we look forward to working with your office to move this legislation forward. Thank you for your continued leadership protecting our children.

Sincerely,

Kate Carr  
President & CEO