



February 22, 2023

Senator Brian Boner  
Wyoming Legislative Service Office  
200 West 24th Street  
Cheyenne, WY 82002

Representative Landon Brown  
Wyoming Legislative Service Office  
200 West 24th Street  
Cheyenne, WY 82002

Dear Chairs Boner and Brown:

We join as Safe Kids Worldwide and Safe Kids Laramie County in support of your bill, SF 19, which would strengthen Wyoming's child safety restraint system law by requiring that children younger than 2 years old ride in a rear-facing restraint system until they surpass its specified weight or height limit.

This measure will align Wyoming law with evidence-based best practices from the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), which recommends that children remain in a rear-facing restraint systems for as long as possible, but at least until two years of age.<sup>1</sup> This is especially important because children younger than two require higher levels of support to protect their still-developing head, neck, and spine in the event of a crash. A rear-facing restraint system addresses this risk by spreading crash forces out and preventing the child's head from moving independently of their proportionately smaller neck.<sup>2</sup>

The changes proposed in SF 19 would help ensure that vulnerable child passengers in Wyoming are better protected from injury or death. Further, updating the state's child passenger safety law to reflect the best practices discussed above will help Wyoming parents and caregivers make the best decisions for their children's safety on the road.

Safe Kids is a grassroots non-profit dedicated to preventing unintentional injuries, the leading cause of death to children in the United States. We work with a nationwide network of over 400 Safe Kids coalitions based at children's hospitals, trauma centers, first responder agencies and community non-profits. Our approach includes programming, education, raising awareness, and advocating for smart policies to keep kids injury-free.

We support SF 19 and thank you for your leadership on this important measure.

Sincerely,

Safe Kids Worldwide  
Safe Kids Laramie County

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<sup>1</sup> Benjamin D. Hoffman, M.D., FAAP; Pediatrics (2018) 142 (5): 20182460. Available at: <https://doi.org/10.1542/peds.2018-2460>

<sup>2</sup> Dennis R. Durbin, MD, MSCE; Committee on Injury, Violence, and Poison Prevention Pediatrics (2011) 127 (4): 788–793. Available at: <https://doi.org/10.1542/peds.2011-0213>