



**Safe Kids Kansas
2012 POLICY PLATFORM
Adopted 12/06/2011**

As part of Safe Kids Kansas' multifaceted approach to injury prevention, the Coalition annually adopts a policy platform and policy priorities. These policy initiatives endeavor to influence the laws, regulations and institutional policies that affect childhood safety and increase funding support for injury programs and research. The platform, along with legislative updates, supports increased knowledge of current childhood injury policy issues among Coalition organizations and members, legislators, health professional, and the general public. The policy priorities are the issues Safe Kids Kansas will be actively working on with policy makers in the next year.

The policy statements contained in the Platform are classified into four categories:

- **Actively Support:** To provide leadership for change regarding the policy issue.
- **Support:** To educate and/or testify regarding the policy issue.
- **Endorse:** Safe Kids Kansas is on record as supporting the policy. If legislation, ordinance, policies or funding become an issue, the Board of Directors decides whether to testify or present educational information on the issue.
- **Monitor:** Safe Kids Kansas will monitor the issue. If legislation, ordinance, policies or funding become an issue, the Board of Directors will make a policy recommendation to the Coalition.

TRAFFIC INJURIES

Motor Vehicle

- Support legislation designed to maintain and/or strengthen existing state child passenger restraint laws and improve their enforcement.
- Support legislation and agency policy at the national and local level to strengthen child passenger restraint laws and enforcement.
- Support efforts to educate the public about the dangers frontal airbags pose to children under age 13 riding in the front passenger seat of vehicles.
- Support legislative efforts at the state level that would require children under age 13 to ride correctly restrained in the back seat.

- Endorse the provision of incentives for child safety seat use by public and private health insurance programs.
- Support legislation and agency policy at the state and local levels to maintain and/or strengthen the safety belt law and to improve enforcement of and compliance with existing laws.
- Endorse efforts at the national level to create airbags that are safe for motor vehicle passengers of all ages.
- Endorse public programs that provide child safety seats or incentives for purchase of child safety seats (including special needs seats) to low-income and families in need.
- Support efforts to educate the public regarding the use of belt positioning boosters and increase the availability of boosters for children weighing between 40-80 lbs in vehicles equipped with lap/shoulder belts.
- Support efforts to educate the public regarding the safety benefits of using child safety seats with harnesses to higher weight limits, and keeping children rear-facing in child safety seats to higher age and weight limits.
- Monitor legislative and agency policy at the national and state levels regarding the number of roadways in Kansas that allow double or triple trailer trucks.
- Support legislative and agency efforts at the state and national level to enhance the graduated drivers licensing law.
- Support education and enforcement of the graduated drivers licensing law.
- Support legislative efforts at the state level to prohibit leaving children unattended in motor vehicles.
- Support legislative efforts at the state level to limit children as passengers on a motorcycle.
- Support legislative and agency efforts at the national level requiring safer motor vehicle design for children.
- Support legislative and agency efforts at the national level requiring safer child safety seat design.
- Endorse legislative efforts to require seat belt reminders in all seating positions in passenger vehicles to assure passengers are buckled and do not unbuckle while the vehicle is in motion.
- Endorse efforts to require driver reminder systems in passenger vehicles to assure children are not inadvertently left in vehicles.
- Support legislation giving immunity to nationally certified child passenger safety technicians and their sponsoring organizations regarding their services in the inspection, installation, or adjustment of a child safety seat or in providing education regarding the installation or adjustment of a child safety seat.
- Support elimination of the exemption of 15-passenger vans from the Kansas child passenger safety law.

School Bus

- Support national, state and local level comprehensive standards to enhance school bus occupant protection.
- Endorse legislative and agency efforts at the state and local level to comply with National Highway Traffic Safety Administration guidelines for transporting preschool children in school buses.
- Support national, state and local level comprehensive standards regarding school bus safety issues.
- Support national, state and local level policy development for school busing eligibility standards that include consideration of safe routes to school.
- Monitor national policy regarding lap/shoulder belts on school buses.

Sports Safety

- Support local Coalitions and community groups in their efforts to enact comprehensive and enforceable local helmet use ordinances.
- Support legislation at the state level to enact a comprehensive and enforceable mandatory helmet law.
- Support the efforts of public and private organizations to develop a helmet use policy.
- Support legislative and agency efforts at the state and local level regarding the appropriate use of motorized and non-motorized scooters by children.
- Support legislative and agency efforts at the state and local level regarding the appropriate use by children of safety equipment for wheeled sports.
- Support legislative and agency efforts at the state and local level to require education regarding concussion and head injury information to be provided to parents and guardians of youth athletes of all ages in any organized sports affiliation prior to participation in either sports practice or competition.
- Support efforts at the national and state level to ban the use of all-terrain vehicles of any size by children.

FIRE AND BURNS

- Support initiatives to strengthen, and provide education, and to enhance compliance with the smoke detector law in Kansas.
- Support policies that limit children's access to matches and lighters.
- Support national, state and local efforts to prohibit the sale of cigarette lighters manufactured to resemble toys or other items that might be attractive to a young child.
- Support state and local efforts to limit the availability and use of fireworks by children.

- Support legislation that requires installation of fire sprinklers in new single-family, manufactured and multi-family homes.

DROWNING

- Support the enactment and enforcement of national and state laws and local ordinances requiring four-sided fencing of swimming pools, including soft-sided pools, on residential properties.
- Support national efforts to develop and enforce minimum safety standards for soft-sided pools; which address pool safety, pool ladders, pumps and filters.
- Support improvement of state and local level laws and ordinances regarding the requirement of anti-entrapment devices for private pools and spas.
- Support legislative and agency efforts at the state level to enforce federal laws requiring anti-entrapment devices for public pools and spas.
- Endorse efforts at the national level to reduce injuries due to infant bath seats and bath rings.

FALLS

- Endorse efforts at the local, state and national level to encourage public playgrounds to meet Consumer Product Safety Commission voluntary standards.
- Support efforts of businesses at the state and local level to comply with voluntary industry safety standards for shopping carts.
- Support national efforts to require minimum safety standards for shopping carts, which address cart stability and prevent falls and tip-overs.
- Support state and local efforts to gather further data regarding falls in children including location, ages & situations.

UNINTENTIONAL FIREARM INJURIES

- Support legislation and implementation of policies at the national, state and local level to restrict children's unsupervised access to firearms.
- Endorse legislative and agency efforts to provide oversight for handguns at the national level; including the establishment of minimum safety standards and requiring recalls of defective products.
- Endorse legislative and agency efforts to prohibit the manufacture or import of a firearm that does not have a load indicator and a childproof safety device.
- Endorse legislative and agency efforts at the national level to restrict new sales of assault weapons.

- Support efforts to include anticipatory guidance on the topic of unintentional injuries, including those injuries caused by firearms, during well-child visits by healthcare providers and by other private and public parent and child service providers.

POISONING

- Support efforts requiring carbon monoxide detectors in residential dwellings.
- Endorse legislative and agency efforts to reduce alcohol ingestion by children.
- Endorse legislative and agency efforts to reduce the use of inhalants by children.
- Monitor efforts on the state and local level to enact ordinances or policy for childcare providers, schools, and other groups who care for children to use the Poison Control Center hotline number to report when an exposure has occurred or is suspected to have occurred.

HOME SAFETY

- Endorse legislative efforts at the national level to reduce child deaths and injuries due to unsafe cribs, co-sleepers, bassinets, and/or play yards.
- Support efforts at the national level to provide additional resources and enforcement capabilities for the Consumer Product Safety Commission.
- Endorse legislative efforts at the national level to strengthen regulations and/or statutes regarding furniture and major appliances that are a tip-over hazard.

CHILD CARE

- Support the enhancement of licensing and certification requirements that include professionally recognized safety standards to ensure all children are protected from potential hazards and injuries.
- Support the development and implementation of pre-service training requirements for state licensing of child care providers.
- Support development of state and agency policy regarding safe transportation of children in child care and early childhood programs, including assurance that every child exits the vehicle when arriving at a destination.
- Support development of a state policy requiring child care providers to contact parents if a child is absent during a scheduled time of care to reduce the risk of a child being forgotten in a vehicle.
- Support implementation of Lexie's Law* in new Kansas Department of Health & Environment licensing requirements.
- Support efforts to include injury prevention initiatives in early childhood programs at the state and local level.

- Support legislation and/or regulation banning 15-passenger vans from use by child care providers as transportation of children in their care.

HEALTH CARE SERVICES FOR CHILDREN

- Support legislative and agency efforts to ensure that quality emergency medical services are available to all children, including size appropriate equipment.
- Endorse continuation and development of a health care system which ensures children's access to primary and preventive health care services, including services to prevent unintentional injury.
- Endorse the inclusion of safe sleep and unattended children in vehicles education in hospital staff education at birthing centers and hospitals.

DATA COLLECTION

- Support efforts to include and enhance E-codes, a supplement to the International Classification of Disease Codes, which would provide vital information about the cause and place of injury, in all hospital discharge and emergency department data summaries.
- Support efforts by the Kansas Child Death Review Board, the Kansas Advisory Committee on Trauma, Kansas Board of Emergency Medical Services, Kansas Department of Transportation, and Kansas Department of Health and Environment to improve data collection on childhood injuries and deaths in Kansas.
- Support state and local efforts to gather further data regarding falls in children including location, ages & situations.

FUNDING FOR INJURY PREVENTION

- Support funding and incentives for national, state and local injury prevention programs.
- Support the efforts of the Governor's Blue Ribbon Panel on Child Mortality.

- Support adequate and stable funding levels for key injury prevention programs including:
 - CDC
 - National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
 - Maternal and Child Health Block Grant
 - Emergency Medical Services for Children
 - Preventive Health Block Grant
 - Consumer Product Safety Commission
 - United States Fire Administration
 - Indian Health Service
 - Injury Free Coalition for Kids
 - Poison Control Centers
 - National Transportation Safety Board
 - National Institute of Occupational Safety & Health
 - National Fire Act
 - Juvenile Firesetter Program
 - Kansas Child Death Review Board
 - KidsandCars.org
 - Safe Kids Worldwide

Notes:

*Lexie's Law was passed by the Kansas legislature in 2010 and includes the following provisions:

- Eliminates the category of registered family day care homes.
- Establishes requirements for competent supervision for children under 5 years old through KDHE rules and regulations process.
- Establishes renewal criteria.
- License will be changed to show expiration date.
- Bill requires establishment of online information dissemination system.
- Bill requires fire extinguisher.
- Bill requires establishment of rules and regulations to require sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS) training and safe sleep practices training.