



TO: Members of the Assembly Committee on Health

DATE: August 10, 2023

RE: Support to AB 188/SB 177 – Fatality review teams

From: Safe Kids Wisconsin, led by Children's Wisconsin

Safe Kids Wisconsin is a member of Safe Kids Worldwide, a network of over 400 local coalitions in the U.S., including 11 in Wisconsin which are included on the attached map. These coalitions work throughout the world bringing together health and safety experts, educators, corporations, foundations, governments and volunteers to educate and protect families. Our mission is to prevent childhood injuries, the leading killer of children 0-19.

Each of the 11 local coalitions in Wisconsin are led by different partners including local hospitals, health departments and other organizations that all work toward keeping children healthy and safe. Members of the coalitions include local police and fire departments, hospitals, schools, churches and other community organizations that also work toward the unified goal of child safety just as the goal of multidisciplinary child fatality review teams.

We write in support of AB 188, which will codify current fatality review practices into state statute to ensure consistency and clarify across all counties within our state. Many of the current data sets used to drive injury prevention programming lack contextual information beyond the immediate cause of death. Child Fatality Review data provides additional invaluable information on the circumstance that can provide valuable insight to guide prevention efforts such as policy, legislation, environmental modifications and other educational and awareness efforts. This bill helps injury prevention professionals get to the key factors in child deaths to better guide effective prevention efforts.

The process of child fatality review can help communities have clearer understanding of underlying risk factors and inequities not found in other sources of data. Having review practices in state statute will provide this insightful data for evidence-informed strategies and the recommendations that come from the teams will be much more likely to have an impact particularly where organized coalitions like Safe Kids is there to support implementation.

We ask the committee members to support this legislation which will save lives. Losing one child is one too many, and don't want any parent to have to endure the loss of a child. Please feel free to contact me with any follow up questions at LSlavin@childrenswi.org or visit www.safekidswi.org to learn more about the work of the local coalitions.

Sincerely,

Libbe Slavin
Program Manager
Safe Kids Wisconsin, led by Children's Wisconsin

Safe Kids Wisconsin Local Coalition Map

