



May 7, 2019

The Honorable Gwen Moore
2252 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congresswoman Moore:

Children's Health Alliance of Wisconsin (Alliance) strongly supports the Scarlett's Sunshine on Sudden Unexpected Death Act. We appreciate your leadership on this important issue. As you may know, the Alliance is Wisconsin's voice for children's health. We are a statewide organization and our mission is to ensure Wisconsin children are healthy, safe and able to thrive. The Alliance leads seven key initiatives, including Keeping Kids Alive in Wisconsin which works to create a comprehensive statewide fetal, infant and child death review system.

The Scarlett's Sunshine on Sudden Unexpected Death Act seeks to strengthen and authorize additional resources for strategies aimed at reducing still births, sudden unexpected infant death, and sudden unexplained death in childhood. The legislation would provide much needed support for many of the preventative services and strategies the Alliance, in partnership with local community and state partners, are currently deploying to combat this vital public health issue.

In particular, we strongly support the provisions that would build and strengthen local infant and child death review programs. Among sudden and unexpected infant deaths occurring from 2014 to 2016 in Wisconsin, nearly 50 percent of deaths did not have all of the recommended components included in the death scene investigations and/or autopsies, directly impacting the coroner or medical examiner's ability to figure out what happened to the infant. As a result, parents have less information about why their child might have died. Local review teams are important because reviewing the risk factors and circumstances surrounding each death provides the team an opportunity to gather important data, analyze trends and drive prevention efforts. For example, as a result of reviewing several open water drowning deaths in Racine County, a series of special meetings were convened and prevention opportunities were identified. In another instance, based upon Milwaukee County review of infant deaths in the sleep environment, a data brief was sent to pediatricians and family practice doctors to encourage them to have safe sleep conversations with their patients' caregivers.

We applaud your commitment to reducing unexpected infant and childhood deaths in Wisconsin. We look forward to working with you to advance this important piece of legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Karen Ordinans".

Karen Ordinans
Executive Director, Children's Health Alliance of Wisconsin

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