



Safe Kids Kansas 2009 POLICY PLATFORM

Adopted December 9, 2008

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 professionals, and the general public. The policy priorities are the issues that 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, polices 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 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 that passenger side airbags pose to children ages 12 and younger riding in the front seat of vehicles.
- Support legislative efforts at the state level that would require children ages 12 and younger 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 strengthen the safety belt law and to improve enforcement of and compliance with existing laws
- Actively support efforts to educate policy makers and the public regarding strengthening the safety belt law and enforcement of and compliance with existing law.
- 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 disadvantaged families.
- 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.
- Monitor legislative and agency efforts at the national and state level regarding the number of roadways in Kansas that allow double or triple trailer trucks.
- Support legislative and agency efforts at the state level to enhance the state graduated licensing law, including limiting the number of non-sibling minor passengers riding with licensed teen drivers, limiting nighttime driving for teen drivers, and limiting wireless technology use for teen drivers.
- Actively 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 efforts to educate policy makers and the public regarding limiting 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.

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 Transportation Safety Agency guidelines for transporting preschool children in school buses.
- Support efforts to educate policy makers and the public regarding safe school bus issues.

Wheeled Sports Safety

- Support local Coalitions and community groups in their efforts to enact comprehensive and enforceable local helmet use ordinances.

- Endorse legislation at the state level to enact a comprehensive and enforceable mandatory helmet law.
- Endorse agency efforts to provide information to policy makers on the effectiveness of helmet legislation enacted in other states, and the financial cost of wheeled sports-related head injuries in Kansas.
- Support the efforts of public and private organizations and individuals to promote the use of helmets among children.
- 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.

All-Terrain Vehicles

- Support efforts at the national level to ban the use of all-terrain vehicles of any size by children.
- Support legislative and agency efforts at the state level regarding the use of all-terrain vehicles of any size by children.

FIRE AND BURNS

- Support agency initiatives to provide education about and compliance of the comprehensive smoke detector law in Kansas.
- Support legislative and agency policies that limit children's access to matches and lighters.
- Support national, state and local efforts to prohibit the sale of novelty lighters (cigarette lighters that are manufactured to resemble toys or other items that might be attractive to a young child).
- Endorse legislative and agency efforts to make children's sleepwear more flame retardant.
- Actively Support the continuation and funding of the active statewide juvenile fire-setter prevention and education program.
- Support state and local efforts to limit the availability and use of fireworks by children.
- Support state and local efforts to educate the public and regulated community about the Firesafe Cigarette Law.

DROWNING

- Support the enactment and enforcement of 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 portable soft-sided pools; which address pool safety, pool ladders, pumps and filters.

- Support efforts to educate the public regarding appropriate safety guidelines for use of soft-sided pools on residential properties.
- Support legislative and agency efforts at the national and state level to require safeguards such as barriers/fencing and anti-entrapment devices for pools and spas.
- Endorse legislative and agency efforts at the national level to reduce injuries due to infant bath seats and bath rings.

FALLS

- Endorse agency 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.

UNINTENTIONAL FIREARM INJURIES

- Support legislation and implementation of policies at the state level to restrict children's unsupervised access to firearms.
- Support the implementation of policies at the national and local levels which will restrict children's unsupervised access to firearms.
- Endorse legislative and agency efforts to provide oversight for handguns at the national level (Consumer Product Safety Commission or Department of Alcohol Tobacco and Firearms); 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 or a childproof safety device.
- Endorse legislative and agency efforts at the National level to implement standards for gun locking devices.
- Endorse legislative and agency efforts at the National level to continue to restrict new sales of assault weapons.

POISONING

- Endorse the efforts of local Coalitions and community groups to enact ordinances requiring carbon monoxide detectors in all residential dwellings that rely on the combustion of fossil fuel for heat, ventilation, or hot water.
- Endorse legislative and agency efforts to reduce alcohol ingestion by children.
- Endorse legislative and agency efforts to reduce the use of inhalants by children.
- Support the efforts of the Kansas Poison Center to publicize the National toll free number to all residents in Kansas.

- Endorse the efforts of the Kansas Poison Center to provide drug education outreach on the use and abuse of drugs to the adolescent population; to provide educational outreach programs to grandparents; and to educate the public about the proper storage and use of medications and household chemicals.

HOME SAFETY

- Endorse the efforts of the Consumer Product Safety Commission to monitor industry compliance with the Child Safety Protection Act, the Labeling of Hazardous Materials Act and the Federal Hazardous Substances Labeling Act.
- Endorse legislative and agency efforts at the national level to reduce child deaths and injuries due to unsafe secondhand cribs.
- Support efforts at the National level to provide additional resources and enforcement capabilities for the Consumer Product Safety Commission.
- Endorse legislative and agency efforts at the National level to strengthen regulations regarding furniture and major appliances that are a tipover hazard.

CHILD CARE

- Support the enhancement of licensing and certification requirements that include professionally recognized safety standards to ensure that 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.

HEALTH CARE SERVICES FOR CHILDREN

- Support legislative and agency efforts to ensure that quality emergency medical services are available to all children, including age appropriate equipment.
- Support agency efforts to include injury prevention initiatives in Healthy Start Home Visitor and other early childhood programs at the local level.
- Support the injury prevention activities of the Kansas Regional Trauma Councils.
- 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.

DATA COLLECTION

- Support efforts to include 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 summaries.

- Support efforts by the Kansas Child Death Review Board, the Kansas Health Policy Authority, 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 in Kansas.

FUNDING FOR INJURY PREVENTION

- Actively Support funding for state and local injury prevention programs.
- Support adequate and stable funding levels for key injury prevention programs at the National level including:
 - < National Center For Injury Prevention and Control, CDC
 - < National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
 - < Maternal and Child Health Block Grant
 - < Emergency Medical Service for Children
 - < Preventive Health Block Grant
 - < Consumer Product Safety Commission
 - < United State Fire Administration
 - < Indian Health Service
 - < Poison Control Centers
 - < National Transportation Safety Board
 - < National Institute of Occupational Safety & Health
 - < National Fire Act
 - < Safe Kids Worldwide
- Support legislative and agency efforts at the national and state level to provide financial incentives for improved injury prevention programs.