

**Testimony by Ted S. Rosenkrantz, MD in Support of
Proposed Bill No. 258, An Act Concerning Infant Safe Sleep Practices**

Public Health Committee
February 20, 2015
Submitted by **Ted S. Rosenkrantz, MD**

Senators Looney, Duff, Gerratana, Bye, Coleman, Crisco, Flexer, Kennedy, Leone, Moore, Winfield, Distinguished Members of the Committee on Public Health:

I am a neonatologist at the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit of CCMC at the UCONN Health Center. I am a full time faculty member of the Department of Pediatrics, Division of Neonatal-Perinatal Medicine at the University of Connecticut School of Medicine. I am a Professor of Pediatrics and OB-Gyn. I have cared for thousands of high-risk newborns over the past three decades in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit. In addition I continue to conduct research which has resulted in changes in practice and improved the health of newborn infants around the world. I am also the co-director of the IBRP program (Infant Breathing and Reflux Program) that evaluates infants with abnormalities in their breathing and provides appropriate therapy and monitoring. I have seen the great improvements in care of these newborns so that mortality has greatly decreased while the quality of survival has become better every year. We have put into place many resources to ensure that the quality of life for these infants continues to be of high quality after discharge including the Birth to Three program. Lastly, I am a member of Case Fatality Review Committee of the Child Advocate Office.

I am writing in support of Proposed Bill No. 258. For years we had no idea what caused sudden infant death syndrome or SIDS. We now know that placing infants on their backs for sleep and removing other items from their bassinets such as bumpers, blankets and other items in which the infant could become entangled prevents almost all cases of SIDS and other accidental causes of infant death during sleep. Despite this knowledge, over 20 infants in Connecticut die from unsafe sleep conditions. With our current knowledge it is clear that these are preventable deaths.

Currently families of infants that pass through the NICU receive extensive education about care of their newborn. They are offered courses in CPR for the newborn and are required to watch/read educational materials about infant behavior, crying and safe sleep conditions. However, only about 10% of the infants born in the State of Connecticut will receive care in a NICU. The vast majority do not require this type of care. For the family who has an infant born at term without any complications there is limited time in the hospital setting prior to going home. Routine issues are breast-feeding, hyperbilirubinemia or jaundice, bathing and general health issues for the mother and baby. Therefore it imperative that Bill Proposed Bill No. 258 be passed. This bill would *“require hospitals to provide informational materials regarding recommended safe sleep practices for infants, including American Academy of*

Pediatrics recommendations concerning safe sleep practices, to parents after the birth of a child at the hospital.” Only when we require this type of education for every family giving birth in Connecticut will we be able to prevent these sleep related deaths. Implementation should require little in economic resources yet prevent the deaths of our most precious children.

For the reasons above, I support Proposed Bill No. 258.

Respectfully submitted,

Ted S. Rosenkrantz, MD
Professor of Pediatrics and OB-Gyn
University of Connecticut School of Medicine
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