



**Safe Kids Kansas
2010 POLICY PLATFORM
Adopted December 8, 2009**

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 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 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 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.
- 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.
- Endorse legislative and agency efforts at the state level to enhance the state graduated licensing law.
- Support legislative efforts on the national level to enact a national graduated drivers licensing law.
- Support education and enforcement of the state graduated drivers licensing law.
- 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 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.
- Support legislative efforts at the national level to extend the requirement in Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard (FMVSS) No. 208 pertaining to lockability standards of vehicle occupant restraints to September 1, 2012.

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 Administration guidelines for transporting preschool children in school buses.
- Support national, state and local level comprehensive standards 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.
- 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.

All-Terrain Vehicles

- 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 agency initiatives to provide education about and compliance of the 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 toy-like lighters (cigarette lighters 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.

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 portable 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 pools and spas.

- Support legislative and agency efforts at the state level to enhance enforcement of federal laws requiring 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 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 (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 restrict new sales of assault weapons.

POISONING

- Support the passage of a national or state law requiring carbon monoxide detectors in residential dwellings.
- Support the efforts of local Coalitions and community groups to enact ordinances requiring carbon monoxide detectors in 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.

HOME SAFETY

- Endorse legislative and agency efforts at the national level to reduce child deaths and injuries due to unsafe cribs, co-sleepers 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 and agency 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.

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 early childhood programs at the local level.
- 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 Boards, the Kansas Health Policy Authority, the Kansas Advisory Committee on Trauma, Kansas Board 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 Services for Children
 - Preventive Health Block Grant
 - Consumer Product Safety Commission
 - United States 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.