

House Resolution 1820

By: Representatives Ballinger of the 23rd, Dempsey of the 13th, Parrish of the 158th, and Cooper of the 43rd

A RESOLUTION

1 Encouraging health care professionals to educate caregivers on ways to reduce infant sleep
2 related deaths; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, science has already demonstrated that infants need to be Alone on their Back
4 and in a Crib, the ABC's of safe sleep; and

5 WHEREAS, in 2014, the State of Georgia averaged three infant deaths each week due to
6 sleeping in an unsafe environment, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
7 reported that infant mortality in the United States is 6.1 per 1,000 live births with Georgia's
8 rate at 7.2 per 1,000 live births; and

9 WHEREAS, sleep related deaths are the third leading cause of infant mortality and among
10 the most preventable causes of infant mortality; and

11 WHEREAS, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention report that while the combined
12 Sudden Unexpected Infant Death (SUID) rate has leveled out, the rates of Accidental
13 Suffocation and Strangulation in Bed (ASSB) are increasing, and the majority, or
14 approximately 84 percent, of infant sleep related deaths occur in the first four months of life;
15 and

16 WHEREAS, the Georgia Child Fatality Review must report on these tragic deaths each year,
17 and it is recognized that being impaired due to drugs or alcohol contributes to these deaths;
18 and

19 WHEREAS, the 2012 Georgia Pregnancy Risk Assessment Survey reported that 54 percent
20 of parents do not place their infant on their back to sleep and only 47 percent of respondents
21 stated that their infant always slept alone; and

22 WHEREAS, infants can suffocate as a result of sleeping in an adult bed or on other
23 dangerous sleep surfaces, such as couches, armchairs or pillows, and these deaths are
24 preventable; and

25 WHEREAS, infants sleep safest when sleeping alone in their own sleep space, on their back
26 in a crib, bassinet, or portable play yard with a firm mattress and a tightly fitted sheet with
27 no other items, such as toys, pillows, bumpers, or blankets, in the sleep area; and

28 WHEREAS, room sharing, as opposed to bed sharing, is encouraged for the safety and
29 comfort of both the parent and infant, and birthing hospitals, pediatrician offices, and ob-gyn
30 offices have the opportunity to educate new parents on the dangers of bed sharing and other
31 unsafe infant sleep environments; and

32 WHEREAS, parents, grandparents, relatives, child care providers, and anyone caring for an
33 infant are encouraged to learn more about how to keep infants safe every time they sleep.

34 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
35 the members of this body encourage health care professionals to educate caregivers on ways
36 to reduce infant sleep related deaths.

37 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
38 and directed to make appropriate copies of this resolution available for distribution to the
39 public and the press.