
HOUSE RESOLUTION

URGING ALL HOSPITALS THAT PROVIDE MEDICAL CARE TO NEWBORNS TO PROVIDE PARENTS OF THE NEWBORN WITH WRITTEN EDUCATIONAL INFORMATION APPROVED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH ABOUT THE DANGEROUS EFFECTS OF SHAKEN BABY SYNDROME AND THE METHODS OF PREVENTING SHAKEN BABY SYNDROME.

1 WHEREAS, Shaken Baby Syndrome (SBS) is the medical term
2 used to describe the vigorous violent shaking of an infant or
3 young child and the resulting injuries; and

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5 WHEREAS, in America, treatment for SBS is sought for an
6 estimated 1,200 to 1,400 children every year; and

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8 WHEREAS, at least one in four victims of SBS die as a
9 result of their injuries; and

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11 WHEREAS, more than 50 percent of the infants and young
12 children who survive SBS suffer from residual disabilities,
13 including brain damage, seizures, mental retardation, spinal
14 injury, paralysis, blindness, and hearing loss; and

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16 WHEREAS, it is likely that many more babies suffer from the
17 effects of SBS, yet no one knows how many, because SBS victims
18 rarely display any external evidence of trauma; and

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20 WHEREAS, shaking occurs frequently when a frustrated
21 caregiver loses control of him or herself while trying to care
22 for an inconsolable crying baby; and

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24 WHEREAS, SBS is preventable when parents of newborns are
25 educated regarding the effects of a moment's violent loss of
26 control and the resulting signs, symptoms, and effects of SBS;
27 and



1 WHEREAS, the message about the dangers of SBS need to be
2 shared with all parents of infants and young children; now,
3 therefore,
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5 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
6 Twenty-fourth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular
7 Session of 2008, that this body hereby urges all hospitals that
8 provide medical care to newborns to give parents of the newborn
9 written educational information approved by the Department of
10 Health (DOH) about the dangerous effects of SBS and different
11 methods of preventing SBS; and
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13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that DOH is requested to create,
14 identify, and provide suitable informational literature to
15 hospitals that provide medical care to newborns to be given to
16 the parents of the children; and
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18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
19 Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Health, the Chief
20 Executive Officer of the Hawaii Health Systems Corporation, the
21 Chief Executive Officer of the Hawaii Healthcare Association,
22 and the Executive Director of Prevent Child Abuse Hawaii.
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