



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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Testimony
In Support of

LD 1460 An Act to Require Parents to Be Informed of Hospitals' Safe Sleep Rules

Senator Ingwersen, Representative Meyer and fellow members of the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services, my name is John Eder and I represent HD 136, the town of Alfred and part of the towns of Lyman and Waterboro.

I am here to present **LD 1460 An Act to Require Parents to Be Informed of Hospitals' Safe Sleep Rules**.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of this simple bill, which requires hospitals with safe sleep policies to provide parents or guardians of inpatient children a written copy of those policies and obtain a signed acknowledgment confirming receipt and awareness of the rules and potential consequences.

This bill addresses what I see as a gap in hospital safe sleep policy communication, revealed through my family's own experience. My six-month-old son, Maxwell, was born with spina bifida, requiring surgery immediately after birth. After a month at Boston Children's Hospital, we spent four days at home, before Maxwell took ill and was admitted to Barbara Bush Children's Hospital for three weeks of IV antibiotics for a urinary tract infection.

Worn out after weeks in the hospital and a sleepless 24 hours with our sick baby, we were finally admitted to Barbara Bush around 2 a.m. Being the involved dad that I am,

I was trying to soothe Maxwell later that early morning when I briefly nodded off holding him in a chair. A nurse took Max from me, and I went back to bed. The next morning, a social worker informed me I'd violated the hospital's safe sleep policy, that a violation was logged and that another violation would result in a Child Protective Services report, possibly leading to an open case triggering CPS intervention and potentially home visits. I was stunned—the message seemed adversarial rather than informative or educational especially since we had not been given any written copy of the rules to understand or acknowledge. Apparently, there was no such document readily at hand. Not wanting to run afoul of any of the numerous rules again I requested them multiple times. I received a website printout many hours later rather than any official document. Parents of sick children spending weeks in the hospital have a lot on their minds without the specter of unwittingly inviting child protective services into their lives when they finally return home with their child. Acknowledging the importance and seriousness of safe sleep in the hospital setting by having parents sign off on a clearly defined set of rules, seems appropriate and would help to avoid any such unfortunate outcomes. I urge you to support this bill for the sake of transparency. Thank you.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John M. Eder". The script is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

John M. Eder
State Representative