



# HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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Senator Ingwersen, Representative Meyer, and esteemed members of the Health and Human committee, I am Representative Tracy Quint. I come before you today to present my bill LD 1485, *"An Act to Create a Minimum Standard of Pathology for Children Under 3 Years of Age Who Die of Sudden Infant Death Syndrome or an Unknown Cause"*

As a mother of a twenty-five year old daughter and twenty-six year old son, I could not imagine the loss of either of my children. To have a child die is an indescribable tragedy. This tragedy is exacerbated when parents cannot be given closure when a cause of death is unavailable. To lose a child under the age of three to an unknown cause can be particularly confusing as a child of three or younger may have been unable to verbalize that something was wrong or that something specific was affecting them. This leaves a parent in a constant state of despair wondering if they missed something. The what ifs are a lifelong anguish. This bill is my attempt to help parents find answers and closure to a horrific experience.

When a young child dies unexpectedly, the medical examiner has the troubling task of declaring a cause of death. At times, the medical examiner is unable to find a cause. At other times, a cause is given using the information available in that moment. Parents are left bereft with their questions. They are so distraught that they don't even know what their questions should be. This bill provides them with the opportunity to seek answers at a later time using information that is gathered and stored for a more in depth consideration at a later date should more information or nuanced memories surrounding the case become available.

I have a proposed amendment to expand the bill to provide specific tests that could be useful to parents as well as leaving the door open for them to ask for specific tests. My only intention is to give parents another opportunity to find answers. Thank you for the opportunity to bring this issue to your attention

Respectfully,

Tracy L. Quint  
State Representative

House District 8

**Current language:**

9-A. Certain deaths of children under 3 years of age. If a medical examiner has  
4 determined that a child under 3 years of age has died as a result of sudden infant death  
5 syndrome or if the medical examiner is unable to determine the cause of death for a child  
6 under 3 years of age, the Chief Medical Examiner shall, at the request of the child's parent  
7 or legal guardian, preserve and retain sufficient tissue samples and other evidence  
8 necessary to make a subsequent determination of the cause of death for one year following  
9 the date of death of the child. Such evidence must be made accessible to the parent or  
10 guardian of the child.

**11 SUMMARY**

12 This bill provides that if a medical examiner has determined that a child under 3 years  
13 of age has died as a result of sudden infant death syndrome or if the medical examiner is  
14 unable to determine the cause of death for a child under 3 years of age, the Chief Medical  
15 Examiner must, at the request of the child's parent or legal guardian, preserve and retain  
16 sufficient tissue samples and other evidence necessary to make a subsequent determination  
17 of the cause of death for one year following the date of death of the child. Such evidence  
18 must be made accessible to the parent or guardian of the child.

**New/Additional Language:**

In deaths of children under 3 years of age. If a medical examiner has determined that a child under 3 years  
of age has died as a result of sudden unknown infant death syndrome; to include sudden infant death  
syndrome, suffocation, strangulation, and other deaths from unknown causes; the chief medical examiner  
include toxicology testing to include the following:

Toxicology

**Toxicology Testing:**

Complete Blood Count

Inflammatory Markers:

C-Reactive Protein

**PFAS Test linear and branched isomers**

**Fibrinogen test (Factor 1 Assay)**

**Aluminum**

**Arsenic**

**Cadmium**

**Hexavalent Chromium**

**Iron**

**Mercury**

**Lead**

**Manganese**

The medical examiner shall also, at the request of the parent or guardian, complete any additional  
forensic toxicology so long as testing is readily available or accessible. The Chief Medical  
Examiner shall, preserve and retain sufficient tissue and fluid samples and other evidence  
necessary to make a subsequent determination of the cause of death for one year following the  
date of death of the child. Such evidence must be made accessible to the parent or guardian of the  
child.