



**KING COUNTY**

1200 King County Courthouse  
516 Third Avenue  
Seattle, WA 98104

**Signature Report**

**October 31, 2017**

**Motion 14988**

**Proposed No. 2017-0391.2**

**Sponsors Lambert and Kohl-Welles**

1           A MOTION requesting the executive to establish a two-  
2           year pilot project to distribute education materials to  
3           establish safe sleeping environments for infants to combat  
4           infant mortality due to unsafe sleep practices and sudden  
5           infant death syndrome.

6           WHEREAS, sudden unexpected infant deaths occur suddenly and unexpectedly in  
7           previously healthy infants, has no obvious cause of death before investigation and most  
8           occur while the infant is sleeping in an unsafe sleep environment, and

9           WHEREAS, sudden infant death syndrome ("SIDS"), which is a subgroup of  
10          sudden unexpected infant death, is defined as the death of an infant less than one year of  
11          age that cannot be explained after a thorough investigation is conducted, including a  
12          complete autopsy, examination of the death scene and a review of the clinical history, is a  
13          major cause of infant deaths in King County, and

14          WHEREAS, the American Academy of Pediatrics recommends a safe sleep  
15          environment that can reduce sleep-related infant death risk, and

16          WHEREAS, the academy's updated 2016 recommendations for a safe sleep  
17          environment include supine positioning, the use of a firm sleep surface, the avoidance of  
18          soft bedding and overheating and the avoidance of bed-sharing, and

19          WHEREAS, the academy additionally recommends the avoidance of exposure to

20 smoke, alcohol and illicit drugs, and

21 WHEREAS, the academy recommends breastfeeding and the use of a pacifier for  
22 SIDS reduction, and

23 WHEREAS, according to the 2012-2015 King County Child Death Review  
24 Report, July 2012 and December 2015, there were forty-two sleep-related infant deaths in  
25 King County, sudden unexpected infant death and SIDS, during the period covered by the  
26 report, which is thirty-four percent of all the cases of all deaths reviewed in all age  
27 groups, ages zero through seventeen, and

28 WHEREAS, SIDS is not predictable or preventable but child care providers and  
29 parents can help reduce the risk of SIDS by using best practices in an environment safe  
30 for a baby, and

31 WHEREAS, the "Safe to Sleep" national campaign, formerly known as the "Back  
32 to Sleep" campaign, initiated in 1994 by a collaboration between the National Institute of  
33 Child Health and Development, the American Academy of Pediatrics, the Maternal and  
34 Child Health Bureau of the Health Resources and Services Administration and SIDS  
35 group increased the percent of infants being properly placed on their backs to sleep from  
36 seventeen percent to seventy-three percent between 1993 and 2010, and

37 WHEREAS, the infant death rate between 1993 and 2010 decreased from 4,700 to  
38 2,063, which is approximately fifty-six percent, as a result of the Back to Sleep  
39 campaign, and

40 WHEREAS, Washington state's Office of the Family and Children's Ombuds  
41 (OFCO) - Child Fatalities and Near Fatalities in Washington State August 25, 2017,  
42 report provides forty-one recommendations, which include providing Division of Child

43 and Family Services caseworkers with additional training and support resources  
44 addressing substance abuse by parents, and assessing child safety and developing plans to  
45 ensure the safety of children in the home, and

46 WHEREAS, infant mortality deaths are used by the National Institute of Health  
47 and the Centers for Disease Control as a barometer that provides information on the  
48 general health of a society;

49 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT MOVED by the Council of King County:

50 A. The executive is requested to establish a two-year pilot project to distribute  
51 education materials to parents when birth records are requested for infants less than one  
52 year old on establishing safe sleep environments for infants.

53 B. The executive is requested to attain the education materials at no cost from the  
54 federal government, the Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and  
55 Human Development, the Washington state Department of Health or local nonprofit  
56 organizations, or the county could create new education materials.

57 C. The executive is requested to ensure that the education material be in  
58 compliance with the 2016 updated American Academy of Pediatrics recommendations  
59 and be evidence-based.

60 D. The executive is requested to begin the pilot program within ninety days of the  
61 passage of this motion.

62 E. County staff responsible for distributing education materials are not required  
63 to provide customer service support on the education materials other than to provide the  
64 education materials.

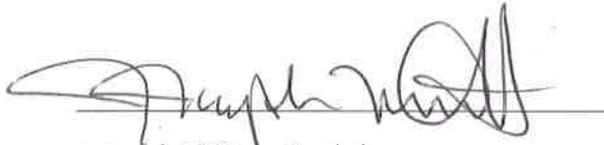
65 F. The Public Health - Seattle & King County medical examiner's office is

66 requested to report already-available data on infant deaths due to unsafe sleep practices  
67 and SIDS mortality rates at the end of the two-year pilot project.  
68

Motion 14988 was introduced on 9/18/2017 and passed as amended by the Metropolitan King County Council on 10/30/2017, by the following vote:

Yes: 9 - Mr. von Reichbauer, Mr. Gossett, Ms. Lambert, Mr. Dunn,  
Mr. McDermott, Mr. Dembowski, Mr. Upthegrove, Ms. Kohl-Welles  
and Ms. Balducci  
No: 0  
Excused: 0

KING COUNTY COUNCIL  
KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON



J. Joseph McDermott, Chair

ATTEST:



Melani Pedroza, Clerk of the Council

Attachments: None

