

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE DATE: April 7, 2017	Contact: Patricia M. Sweeney, JD, MPH, RN
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MY Baby's 1st Infant Mortality Prevention Coalition

Statement of Concern regarding the use of Cardboard Baby Boxes for Infant Sleep

The MY Baby's 1st Coalition is a collaborative in Mahoning County and Youngstown comprised of organizations and individuals committed to reducing infant mortality in our community. Coalition members believe passionately that ensuring a safe sleep environment for every baby will aid in lowering infant mortality rates. The MY Baby's 1st Coalition recommends that an infant be placed in an empty crib or a portable crib such as a Pack n' Play[®] for sleeping. A crib remains the safest place for a baby to sleep.

In recent months, there has been an increased focus on the use of baby boxes for infant sleeping in Ohio and in the United States. Proponents cite this practice in Finland and associate their use with Finland's low infant mortality rate. However, there is no evidence to back up these claims. Several other factors may be contributing to Finland's low infant mortality rate, e.g., fewer premature births, incentives for prenatal care, healthier adults, universal health care and extended maternity and paternity leave.

Currently, the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) and the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) have not endorsed the use of baby boxes as a safe sleep environment. The AAP Task Force on SIDS has concluded that there is not enough evidence on the potential benefits or dangers of using baby boxes. Therefore, until more research is done regarding the use of baby boxes, the MY Baby's 1st Coalition recommends that an infant be placed to sleep in an empty crib or in a portable crib such as a Pack n' Play[®].

A Pack n' Play[®] may be obtained by contacting 330-270-2855 ext. 125.

Follow the ABCs of Safe Sleep

Alone. Back. Crib.

Every baby. Every sleep.

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