

THE COUNCIL OF STATE GOVERNMENTS

RESOLUTION ON SUDDEN INFANT DEATH SYNDROME

WHEREAS, rates of sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS) declined by more than 50 percent since 1990 due to the national Back-to-Sleep campaign and the decrease in infants being placed in a prone position to sleep;

WHEREAS, SIDS is the third leading cause of infant mortality in the United States;

WHEREAS, approximately 4500 infant deaths each year are attributable to SIDS and other sudden unexplained infant deaths (SUID) such as overlaying, suffocation, and unknown cause-of-death;

WHEREAS, research has shown that throughout the United States, cause-of-death data for sudden, unexplained infant deaths including SIDS are collected inconsistently, making it difficult to monitor trends in infant death, evaluate prevention programs, and conduct research that could lead to strategies to prevent and reduce deaths;

WHEREAS, in 2004, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention worked with medical examiners, coroners, death scene investigators, infant death researchers, and SIDS parent organizations to revise the 1996 *Guidelines for the Death Scene Investigation of Sudden, Unexplained Infant Death and the Investigation Report Form*;

WHEREAS, in 2005, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and death scene investigator training experts developed a training curriculum and materials to instruct investigators on the conduct of an infant death scene investigation;

BE IT NOW THEREFORE RESOLVED that The Council of State Governments encourages state legislators and other elected officials to support the standardization of data collection at infant death scene investigations and of data recorded on death certificates to ensure the accuracy and consistency of diagnosis and reporting of the cause of death can be achieved.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The Council of State Governments encourages legislators to require training of investigators and death certifiers in how to consistently collect data at the death scene and translate the investigation findings into a cause-of-death on the death certificate.

Adopted this 8th Day of June, 2005, at the
CSG Spring Task Force and Committee Meeting
In Lake Tahoe, California



Governor Ruth Ann Minner
2005 CSG President



Assemblyman Lynn Hettrick
2005 CSG Chair