

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 5

BY COMMERCE AND HUMAN RESOURCES COMMITTEE

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1
2 STATING LEGISLATIVE FINDINGS AND PROVIDING THAT IN CONJUNCTION WITH THIS
3 YEAR'S APRIL CHILD ABUSE AWARENESS MONTH THAT AGENCIES AND NONPROFIT
4 ORGANIZATIONS ARE ENCOURAGED TO EMPHASIZE SHAKEN BABY SYNDROME AS A
5 LEADING CAUSE OF CHILD ABUSE DEATHS IN CHILDREN LESS THAN ONE YEAR OF
6 AGE, THEREBY EDUCATING IDAHO CITIZENS ON THIS PREVENTABLE TRAGEDY.

7 Be It Resolved by the Legislature of the State of Idaho:

8 WHEREAS, Shaken Baby Syndrome is the number one cause of death in child
9 abuse cases involving children less than one year of age; and

10 WHEREAS, Shaken Baby Syndrome incidents are increasing in Idaho; and

11 WHEREAS, Shaken Baby Syndrome can be prevented and nationally, 1,200 to
12 1,400 babies suffer from preventable abusive head trauma caused by Shaken
13 Baby Syndrome and one out of four of these babies will die from this trauma
14 and seventy-five percent of survivors will need ongoing medical attention;
15 and

16 WHEREAS, when an infant is shaken, the brain is injured, causing bleed-
17 ing and swelling, shearing tissue and possible damage to the spinal cord and
18 these effects can lead to brain damage, seizures, mental retardation, spinal
19 injury, paralysis, impaired use of limbs and death; and

20 WHEREAS, ongoing systematic education of parents before they leave the
21 hospital is relatively inexpensive, as compared to caring for these infants
22 after abuse has occurred, and is the only prevention strategy that has shown
23 significant results; and

24 WHEREAS, experts said a similar program enforced in the state of New
25 York reduced Shaken Baby Syndrome cases by forty-six percent in thirteen
26 counties over six years and by taking responsibility for the prevention of
27 Shaken Baby Syndrome through education, Idahoans can be more aware as a whole
28 and therefore more likely to pass on these good habits to their new family and
29 community members; and

30 WHEREAS, several Idaho hospitals have already begun systematic educa-
31 tion programs for new parents and they can lead the effort in communities
32 statewide; and

33 WHEREAS, a cultural change needs to take place in the way society com-
34 prehends infant crying in early infancy and the danger of shaking a baby as a
35 result of this frustration, as crying is the number one trigger to shaking.

36 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the members of the First Regular Ses-
37 sion of the Sixty-first Idaho Legislature, the House of Representatives and
38 the Senate concurring therein, that in conjunction with this year's April
39 Child Abuse Awareness month that agencies and nonprofit organizations are
40 encouraged to emphasize Shaken Baby Syndrome as a leading cause of child
41 abuse deaths in children less than one year of age, thereby educating Idaho
42 citizens on this preventable tragedy.