



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

Charles J. Fuschillo Jr.

## Senators Fuschillo and Saland Introduce Legislation Banning Sale of Drop-Side Cribs in NYS

CHARLES J. FUSCHILLO JR. December 22, 2009

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### *Suffocation Deaths of New York State Infants Prompts Call for Proposed Law*

**Senator Charles J. Fuschillo, Jr. (R-Merrick) and Senator Stephen M. Saland (R-I-C Poughkeepsie), Ranking Member of the Senate Consumer Protection Committee, have introduced legislation to ban the sale of drop-side cribs in New York State, which have caused the suffocation deaths of at least two New York infants, and 11 infant fatalities nationwide.**

**Senator Fuschillo said, “Children’s products that can kill or injure a child do not belong on store shelves. Drop-side cribs have already caused several tragedies and numerous injuries to young children. Removing them from the marketplace will help protect children from harm, and I enthusiastically support this legislation.”**

**Senator Saland said, “The tragic death of these infants in New York State and the recall of millions of drop-side cribs clearly signal the potential dangers of these cribs. The State needs to take these defective cribs out of the marketplace now before another child is harmed.”**

**Drop-side cribs allow parents to raise and lower one side for easy access. According to the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC), a drop-side crib’s hardware, often made of plastic, can break or malfunction, causing the drop-side to detach. When this occurs, a space is created between the drop-side and the crib mattress. Infants and toddlers can roll into this space and become entrapped, which can lead to suffocation. Other injuries associated with drop-side cribs include bumps, bruises and concussions, which occur when the side of the crib completely detaches.**

**This proposed law would prohibit the import, manufacture, sale and distribution of drop-side cribs in New York State.**

**The CPSC reported that in May, 2007, seven-month-old Courtney Sue Barr got trapped between the mattress and the gate of her defective drop-side crib and suffocated in her Gouverneur (St. Lawrence County) home. A nine-month-old child in the Bronx also suffocated after being entrapped by a drop-side crib, according to the CPSC.**

**In addition, parents on Long Island who attribute their infant sons' deaths to a defective drop-side crib have worked with the county legislatures to ban the sale of drop-side cribs in Suffolk and Nassau counties.**

**The CPSC has recalled millions of drop-side cribs in the United States due to infant deaths and injuries.**

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