



Ohio Chapter

Ohio Chapter

450 West Wilson Bridge Road
Suite 215
Worthington, OH 43085
Phone: 614/846-6258
Fax: 614/846-4025
E-mail: chapter@ohioaap.org

President

Terry P. Barber, Sr., MD, FAAP
450 West Wilson Bridge Road
Suite 215
Worthington, OH 43085
Phone: 614/846-6258
Fax: 614/846-4025
Home:
5489 Sierra Drive
Westerville, OH 43082
Phone: 740/507-2160
Email: tpbarber@aap.net

President-Elect

Gerald Tiberio, MD, FAAP
Muskingum Valley Health Centers
716 Adair Avenue
Zanesville, OH 43701
Phone: 740/454-5893
Fax: 740/455-7693
Email:
gtiberio@mvhealthcenters.org

Treasurer

Judith Romano, MD, FAAP
222 N Fifth St., Suite 101
Martins Ferry, OH 43935
Phone: 740/633-6482
Fax: 740/633-6475
Email: drjudithromano.1@comcast.net

Chapter Executive Director

Melissa Wervy Arnold
450 West Wilson Bridge Road
Suite 215
Worthington, OH 43085
Phone: 614/846-6258
Fax: 614/846-4025
E-mail: marnold@ohioaap.org

Immediate Past-President

William H. Cotton, MD, FAAP
27 Keswick Drive
New Albany, Ohio 43054
Phone: 614/939-0311
Fax: 614/939-0920
E-mail: William.Cotton@nationwidechildrens.org

Chapter Web site

www.ohioaap.org

AAP Headquarters

141 Northwest Point Blvd
Elk Grove Village, IL 60007-1098
Phone: 847/434-4000
Fax: 847/434-8000
E-mail: kidsdocs@aap.org
www.aap.org

Proponent Testimony for HB 320 Senate Highways and Transportation Committee By William Cotton, MD Pediatrician, Nationwide Children's Hospital December 2, 2008

Thank you, Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee for this opportunity to speak in support of House Bill 320, legislation introduced by Representative Shannon Jones to require booster seats for children between the ages of 4 and 8 years (and less than 4'9") and to require children under the age of 18 to be restrained while in a vehicle.

My name is Dr. William Cotton. I am a pediatrician at Nationwide Children's Hospital, and I work as the Medical Director for the Primary Care Network at Children's. I am Immediate Past-President of the Ohio Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics, and I represent its two thousand pediatrician members.

It is likely no surprise that child safety issues are of paramount concern to the Ohio AAP. Research *and* common sense tells us that safety devices such as booster seats and seat belts save lives.

Why use a booster seat?

Motor vehicle collisions continue to be the leading cause of death for children 4 to 8 years of age within our state and nationally. Belt positioning booster seats are recommended for a child who has outgrown a convertible safety seat, but are too small to use a vehicle's safety belt. The purpose of the booster seat is to elevate a child in the automobile's chair so that the lap belt fits across the child's pelvis, not abdomen, and that the shoulder arm belt does not override on the child's neck. Researchers at The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia reviewed approximately 48,000 crashes involving roughly 56,000 children and showed that youth restrained in a belt-positioning booster were 59 percent less likely to sustain an injury. Also, these children restrained in a booster suffered no abdominal, neck, back or lower extremity injuries.

Testimony for HB 320
By William Cotton, MD
Ohio Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics

In Ohio, booster seats are not used nearly enough

Although booster seats have been proven to be effective in reducing injuries to children between 4 and 8 years of age, many families are still not using booster seats. Data collected in 2004 from The Partners for Child Passenger Safety showed that only 27 percent of US children aged 4 to 8 years were appropriately restrained in booster seats. At Cincinnati Children's Medical Center, only 8 percent of children were appropriately restrained in a belt-positioning booster seat after 2,300 car seat checks were completed by the Trauma Services Department in 2000. In fact, only 2 of the 141 children that were hospitalized as a result of a car crash were restrained in booster seats. Cincinnati Children's also held a focus group for parents of children 4 to 8 years, funded by National Highway Traffic & Safety Administration (NHTSA), where many parents stated that they are not sure that booster seats are safe and that if they were important for safety, there would be a law to make them essential.

Precedence already exists in Ohio law

Today there are other Ohio laws that mandate personal safety through enforcement. According to the Department of Natural Resources, children under 10 years of age are REQUIRED to wear a life jacket when on any water vessel less than 18 feet in length. Yet, Ohio does not have a requirement for automobile safety despite the fact that there are more children over the age of 3 that are killed in motor vehicles than from any other injury death. If Ohio has a law to protect the safety of a child in a boat, then it is time that Ohio has a law to protect the safety of a child in a car.

The research certainly backs our position that requiring booster seats for older kids will save lives. To date, 43 states and the District of Columbia had enacted laws requiring the use of booster seats or other appropriate restraint device for children who have outgrown traditional forward-facing child safety seats. As medical professionals who see far too many traumas that might have been lessened or prevented through proper child restraint, we urge your support of HB 320.

Testimony for HB 320
By William Cotton, MD
Ohio Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics

Car safety belts also save lives

Finally, after a child is old and tall enough to sit without a booster seat in car, requiring the use of a safety belt in a vehicle for children is critical. Ohio AAP supports the provision in this bill to require safe restraint for all kids traveling in a motor vehicle.

Thank you for the opportunity to share our support of this important bill. I would be happy to answer any questions.