



Blake Richards, M.P.
Banff-Airdrie

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

December 8, 2016

Providing Support for Parents Following the Loss of an Infant Child

Earlier this week, Blake Richards, Member of Parliament for Banff-Airdrie, submitted a Private Members' Motion aimed at helping parents who have suffered the loss of an infant child, including in the case of Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS). Currently, parental benefits are revoked immediately following the loss of a child under a year old.

Being forced to return to work immediately after losing a child is not always an option for grieving parents. Richards' Motion asks the Standing Committee on Human Resources, Skills and Social Development and the Status of Persons with Disabilities to look at ways to provide more support to parents who lose an infant child to sudden or unexpected causes.

Quotes

"The financial hardship that some of these families have to go through, in addition to their grief, can be overwhelming. With this Motion, I am asking the Committee to explore whether there are any changes that could be made to help alleviate some of the pressure."

Blake Richards

Member of Parliament

"Quinn's Legacy and the Cormier family are thankful for Blake Richards' support. We look forward to hearing and seeing the Committee's findings and making changes within the current system. As bereaved parents and as a society created to support bereaved parents, we are hopeful that the Committee will see the importance of changing policy so that it better supports the newly bereaved. Our hope is that these future bereaved parents are supported financially so that they can begin to grieve their loss and honor their child without hardship. Changing the system will make the process less cumbersome for parents in the early days, give names to these children and lessen the impact on the newly bereaved as they sort through their grief in the early stages. We offer our support and welcome the opportunity to be part of the consultations."

Sarah Cormier

Quinn's Legacy Run Society

“Parents need time to grieve following the death of their infant. But too often, these parents are forced to return to work before they are physically, mentally and emotionally ready to do so. Mr. Richards is shedding light on an issue that affects thousands of Canadian parents every year.”

Karine Hébert

Baby's Breath Canada

Quick Facts

- SIDS is the number one cause of death in babies under the age of one
- SIDS or undetermined deaths cannot be predicted or prevented
- On the day the infant dies, EI parental benefits stop being paid to the parent

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