



COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA

HOUSE OF DELEGATES

RICHMOND

G. GLENN ODER
POST OFFICE BOX 6161
NEWPORT NEWS, VIRGINIA 23606

NINETY-FOURTH DISTRICT

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS:
TRANSPORTATION (VICE-CHAIRMAN)
GENERAL LAWS
COUNTIES, CITIES, AND TOWNS

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Contact: Jessica Turner
804.698.1094

General Assembly to Continue Fighting Shaken Baby Syndrome in Virginia

Richmond, VA - Delegate Glenn Oder (R-Newport News) introduced HJ 632 which directs the Joint Commission on Health Care to study the costs of Shaken Baby Syndrome (SBS) and identify best practices in reducing the incidence of SBS in Virginia.

"Shaken Baby Syndrome is a result of a person shaking an innocent baby so violently that it creates severe and irreparable brain damage. I believe if we take better steps to educate citizens on how to cope with the pressures of child care, less babies will be harmed," said Delegate Oder. "House Joint Resolution 632 is the first step toward bringing state agencies and other stakeholders together to identify the number of shaken baby cases in Virginia and identifying the best practices to prevent future cases of SBS."

In developing this legislative proposal, Delegate Oder worked with Shaken Baby Syndrome of Virginia, Inc, an organization founded by Steve and Kathy Stowe and dedicated to their grandson, Jared, who was violently shaken at 6 weeks old. In April of 2010, the Stowe's represented SBS of VA and trained over 5,000 soldiers about the devastating effects of SBS. They were awarded The Coin of Excellence and a Certificate of Appreciation for their efforts by Colonel G.K. Grothe, Commander, United States Army.

HJ 632 is a continuation of the efforts begun in 2010 with HB 411 where the General Assembly passed legislation requiring childcare providers in Virginia to be trained about the dangers of shaking a baby. HJ 632 begins the process of determining the best way to educate new parents on the fragile nature of a baby's brain and the dangers of shaking a baby.

"As co-founders of Shaken Baby Syndrome of Virginia, we believe HJ 632 will identify the extent of the problem as well as the best ways to insure that new parents are educated about the devastating consequences of shaking a baby," said Steve Stowe. "We will use our experience as primary care givers to our grandson Jared, as well as our experience from helping other victims from across Virginia, to work with this study group to insure children like Jared never have to needlessly suffer and die because parents do not understand the trauma associated with shaking babies."

Delegate Oder will be working with hospital and healthcare providers to seek support for the passage of this important child care legislation.

Glenn Oder was first elected to the Virginia House of Delegates in 2002. He represents the 94th House District, which includes part of Newport News. For more information regarding Delegate Oder please visit his website – www.glennoder.com.