



Ohio Star Legacy pushes for stillbirth tax credit



The Ohio chapter of the Star Legacy Foundation hopes our state will join a [handful of others that offer a stillbirth tax credit](#) to families whose babies are born still.

The chapter is proposing a one-time, \$2,000 tax credit, with the idea that costs related to stillbirth are not all covered by insurance, and families must bear a financial burden along with their grief. The bill would also serve as a symbolic gesture recognizing stillbirth and would provide an opportunity to educate lawmakers about its prevalence.

Ohio, like many states, already offers a certificate of stillbirth.

Minnesota in 2016 became the fifth state to offer a stillbirth tax credit, and North Dakota adopted the law in 2017. Others are:

- Missouri, 2015
- Indiana, 2007
- Michigan, 2006
- Arizona, 2004

Wisconsin, New York and New Jersey have introduced legislation.

Ohio could still be at the forefront, said Amanda and Chris Duffy, of Minnesota, whose daughter, Reese, was stillborn in 2014.

"Parents of stillborn children must accept the burden of many financial costs – sometimes reaching as high as \$15,000," they said. "But these tax credit bills are about so more than dollars and cents. They are about recognizing the thousands of families across the country that suffer in silence each year."

Ohio averages 906 stillbirths a year, according to state statistics. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Ohio ranked seventh in the country for the number of stillbirths in 2015.

The Ohio chapter plans to reach out to individual state senators and representatives. If you're interested in contacting your lawmakers, please contact Ohio board secretary Justin Welliver at justinkwelliver@gmail.com.

Telling our stories

As the Ohio chapter works to provide one-time financial relief to the parents of stillborn sons and daughters, we need stories from parents like you.

As we connect with elected leaders, we hope to carry your stories with us. If you are willing to share how stillbirth has impacted your life, in all ways but especially financially, please reach out to Doug Livingston at dhlivingston1@gmail.com. Doug and his wife lost their daughter, Emma, in May 2017. Doug is a journalist and would take care to record your testimony as we gather voices to bring this common sense relief, already a law in other states, to Ohio.

Want more Star Legacy Ohio news?

Find us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/OhioStarLegacyFoundation and on Twitter @OhioStarLegacy. And consider joining our board. We're always looking for volunteers!

What do you want to see in a newsletter?

Do you want news from the chapter? Articles addressing grief or pregnancy after loss?

Interviews with parents?

Take our poll here: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/XFHVVVD>

Or email chapter media chair Laura Johnston at lauraejohnston@gmail.com.

Thanks for reading!

Save the date for Lydie's Loop!



SEP 22 Lydie's Loop: Steps against Stillbirth 2018
Sat 8 AM
Helen, Katl and Jaime

Like Comment Share

The Ohio Chapter of the Star Legacy Foundation will host its biggest fundraiser, Lydie's Loop: Steps Against Stillbirth, in September.

Mark your calendars for Saturday, Sept. 22, 2018, for the third annual event, featuring 5K run, 1-mile walk, children's activities, raffle, silent auction and reading of baby names.

Lydie's Loop, named after Lydia Welliver, who was stillborn in November 2014, is a great opportunity for families to celebrate their children and meet other parents who have suffered perinatal loss.

Find more information here: www.tinyurl.com/lydiesloop Want to volunteer? Contact Heather Johnston Welliver at ohiochapter@starlegacyfoundation.org.

The New York Times on stillbirth

Did you see the New York Times column, "When a Grieving Mother Talks, Listen," an OB-GYN whose first-born son died shortly after birth? "At age 36, I joined the saddest sorority of mothers: those who gave birth but have no baby."

The articles inspired grieving parents across the country to share their stories: <https://www.nytimes.com/2017/12/29/reader-center/perinatal-death-stillbirth-miscarriage.html>

Making baby gowns from wedding dresses



Ohio Star Legacy volunteers Naomi Schneider and Joanne Johnston met this mo brainstorm their plans for sewing gowns for babies from wedding dresses. Thank and Joanne for supporting families in honor of Asher and Lydie, and thanks to th have selflessly donated your wedding gowns.

Want to get involved, or donate a dress? Email the chapter at ohiochapter@starlegacyfoundation.org.