



## NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **SHNS Report on SIDS Wins 2008 Philip Meyer Journalism Award from Investigative Reporters and Editors, Inc.**

NEW YORK, January 22, 2009 – Scripps Howard News Service has been named the winner of the 2008 Philip Meyer Journalism Award for investigative reporting. SHNS took top honors for its major investigative piece, “Saving Babies: Exposing Sudden Infant Death,” which chronicled administrative inconsistencies in state and local review boards that examine infant deaths. National reporters Thomas Hargrove, Lee Bowman, and Lisa Hoffman spent seven months conducting research for the project.

Investigative Reporters and Editors, Inc., which will present the award to SHNS on March 20, said that the Scripps Howard reporters “did a masterful job in exposing bureaucratic lapses that hinder the search for causes of sudden infant death.” As noted by Hargrove, Bowman, and Hoffman, hundreds of Americans kill their babies every year, but depending on where they live, they may well get away with it. States that aggressively review infant death investigations are finding twice as many homicides as states with little or no such oversight, the study found.

After the report was published, Rep. Frank Pallone (D-NJ) called on the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to make recommendations on how the nation can improve its handling of sudden and mysterious infant deaths. A few months after that, then-U.S. Sen. Barack Obama introduced national legislation that would establish a national registry of unexpected infant deaths to improve consistency of diagnosis.

Scripps Howard News Service ([www.shns.com](http://www.shns.com)) is a tightly edited news service that offers 80-100 stories daily to more than 400 newspapers and Web sites worldwide through United Media. SHNS is prepared by a Washington, D.C., staff and the daily file includes the best stories from Scripps Howard Newspapers and an award-winning roster of contributing newspapers from around the world.



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