



March 20, 2019

Honorable Ann Kuster
U.S. House of Representatives
320 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Honorable Earl Carter
U.S. House of Representatives
2432 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representatives Kuster and Carter:

On behalf of Safe Kids Worldwide and 24 Safe Kids coalitions from 13 states across the country, we write to thank you and express our support for your proposed legislation, the “Carbon Monoxide Poisoning Prevention Act”. This important legislation will help states prevent tragedies involving carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning, a hazard to which young children and pregnant women are especially vulnerable. We write as Safe Kids Worldwide coalitions from areas prone to cold weather in the winter and natural disasters such as hurricanes—areas where the risk of carbon monoxide poisoning is especially acute.

Carbon monoxide is called the “silent killer” because it is colorless, odorless and undetectable without the aid of a CO detector. CO exposure can cause cognitive impairment, loss of consciousness, coma and death. Over 20,000 people per year are admitted to U.S. emergency rooms for unintentional CO poisoning, and over 2,300 are hospitalized.¹ The risk of CO poisoning is heightened in states with cold-weather winters and areas prone to natural disasters, where many families rely on gas-fired heating systems, generators and appliances that can emit CO.

We can prevent CO poisoning. The most effective way is to install carbon monoxide detection devices in places where people—especially children—live, work, sleep, and learn. An average of over 400 people die of unintentional CO poisoning per year, but only a little over 40 percent of homeowners report having a working CO detector.^{2 3} Your legislation will help prevent these tragedies from happening.

Safe Kids Worldwide is a grassroots nonprofit organization working to prevent childhood injury, the number one cause of death for children in the United States. We work with an extensive network of more than 400 coalitions in the U.S. More than 100 of our coalitions are based at pediatric and medical institutions, and also at firehouses, police stations and health departments. As a trusted, go-to resource for parents, we educate on how to prevent injury and advocate for smart public policy. Working together, we can do much more for kids everywhere.

Sincerely,

Safe Kids Alaska
Safe Kids Kenai Peninsula
Safe Kids Central California
Safe Kids Santa Clara/San Mateo
Safe Kids Larimer County
Safe Kids Miami-Dade
Safe Kids Illinois
Safe Kids Illinois

Safe Kids Chicago
Safe Kids Edwards County
Safe Kids Bartholomew County
Safe Kids Minnesota
Safe Kids Northwest Metro Minneapolis
Safe Kids New York
Safe Kids Otsego County
Safe Kids Grand Forks

Safe Kids Minot
Safe Kids Fargo-Moorhead
Safe Kids Bismarck-Mandan
Safe Kids Utah
Safe Kids Thurston County

Safe Kids Wisconsin
Safe Kids Southeast Wisconsin
Safe Kids Wood County
Safe Kids Worldwide

¹ Raub JA, Mathieu-Nolf M, Hampson NB, Thom SR. Carbon monoxide poisoning—a public health perspective. *Toxicology*. 2000; 145:1–14. [PubMed: 10771127]

² Sircar K, Clower J, Shin MK, Bailey C, King M, Yip F. Carbon monoxide poisoning deaths in the United States, 1999 to 2012. *Am J Emerg Med* 2015;33:1140–5DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.15585/mmwr.mm6608a9>.

³ U.S. Census Bureau and U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, 2011 American Housing Survey.