



September 27, 2018

International Code Council (ICC)
4051 Flossmoor Road
Country Club Hills, IL 60478

Dear ICC Members:

Safe Kids Worldwide and 29 coalitions throughout the nation join together to voice our strong support for the proposal to make windows safer by preventing curious children from climbing on to window sills and falling out. Every year, too many children meet their deaths in this tragic way, and many more are seriously injured. It is estimated that 4,700 injuries occur each year from window fall incidents. The mission of Safe Kids is to reduce preventable fatalities and serious injuries through proven and practical remedies. Window falls are one of those preventable injuries.

Though seven years have passed, many of us in the child safety community still remember the tragedy of Evan English, a four-year-old who lost his life falling out of a second-floor window in Navy housing in Hawaii in 2011. Safe Kids Worldwide supported legislation proposed by Rep. Mike Turner, Evan's Law, that would require effective window fall protection in military housing. A version of the legislation was approved in the FY 2018 defense authorization bill. This, of course, only affects military housing, and we are hoping it would be a model for building practices that would better protect all our children.

The safety community works together to promote awareness about the dangers that inadequately protected windows present to young children. However, smart and effective engineering should play a role too. It is unfortunate that current building codes allow the use of ineffective window fall protection devices when the buildings are constructed. The current code contains a loophole that allows a window to be fully opened, resulting in injuries and death among young children. We are optimistic about current efforts by the National Association for Child Window Safety to amend the ICC Building Code to improve building codes that would eliminate the dangerous "open window" loophole.

The existing code allows the use of child window fall protection devices that can be over-ridden or disabled. We support the use of "passive" devices that cannot be over-ridden and comply with all fire safety standards. We also support removing the sill-height threshold so that all windows are beyond the reach of small children.

We are hopeful that these essential code changes will be considered and approved at the International Code Council (ICC) meeting in Richmond, VA at the Annual ICC Convention on October 24-31, 2018. If you have any questions about our position on this matter, you may contact Anthony Green, agreen@safekids.org, 202.662.0606.

Sincerely,

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Safe Kids Ohio
Safe Kids Georgia
Safe Kids Vermont

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Safe Kids Hawaii
Safe Kids DC
Safe Kids Virginia
Safe Kids Tennessee
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Safe Kids Oklahoma City (OK)

Contact:

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