April 29, 2019

Honorable Kamala Harris
U.S. Senate
112 Hart Senate Building
Washington, DC 20510

Honorable Joe Cunningham
U.S. House of Representatives
423 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Honorable Jesús Garcia
U.S. House of Representatives
530 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Senator Harris, and Representatives Cunningham and Garcia:

We are a global, grass roots child safety organization and write in support of your legislation to require carbon monoxide detectors in federally assisted housing, S755 and HR1690. We are 40 coalitions of Safe Kids Worldwide joining together to support this important bill. Thank you for your leadership on matters relating to child safety.

Our mission is to prevent unintentional injury death involving kids 19 and under. Homes without carbon monoxide detectors lead to the poisoning deaths of kids is a tragic example of unintentional injury that we work on in our awareness programs and advocacy efforts.

We saw the new reports on NBC News about the children 3, 5 and 8 years old in Columbia, South Carolina who almost perished when CO penetrated the Allen Benedict Court public housing complex there.¹

It is unconscionable that the law covering housing under the jurisdiction of the Department of Urban Housing and Development does not already require the capacity to detect CO. This is the case even though a CO detector can be purchased today on amazon.com for $19.59.

Carbon monoxide is so pernicious because it is odorless, colorless and tasteless which is why it is known as “The Invisible Killer.” Moreover, the first symptoms of CO poisoning mimic the symptoms of a flu which is why it often fools parents. The people who are vulnerable to CO poisoning are children and senior citizens and a majority of the 4.6 people in public housing are represented in those same populations.² Over 20,000 people per year are admitted to U.S. emergency rooms for unintentional CO poisoning.³ An average of over 400 people die of unintentional CO poisoning per year.³

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 to make kids safer and healthier. We are here to help you advocate for passage of HR 1690 and S755.
Sincerely,

Safe Kids Alaska
Safe Kids Greater Sacramento, California
Safe Kids San Diego, California
Safe Kids California
Safe Kids Colorado
Safe Kids Colorado Springs, Colorado
Safe Kids Denver Metro, Colorado
Safe Kids Connecticut
Safe Kids District of Columbia
Safe Kids Hawaii
Safe Kids Illinois
Safe Kids Chicago, Illinois
Safe Kids South Chicagoland, Illinois
Safe Kids Maine
Safe Kids Minnesota
Safe Kids Cascade County, Montana
Safe Kids Missoula, Montana
Safe Kids New Hampshire
Safe Kids Middlesex, New Jersey
Safe Kids New Jersey
Safe Kids New York City, Manhattan, Bronx,
Safe Kids Nassau, New York
Safe Kids Queens, New York
Safe Kids New York
Safe Kids Grand Forks, North Dakota
Safe Kids Bismarck/Mandan, North Dakota
Safe Kids Minot, North Dakota
Safe Kids Fargo-Moorhead
Safe Kids Ohio
Safe Kids Summit County, Ohio
Safe Kids Mahoning Valley, Ohio
Safe Kids Portland Metro, Oregon
Safe Kids Southeastern Pennsylvania
Safe Kids Upstate, South Carolina
Safe Kids Virginia
Safe Kids Thurston County, Washington
Safe Kids Southeast Wisconsin
Safe Kids Wisconsin
Safe Kids Worldwide

Contact: Anthony Green, Safe Kids Worldwide, Chief Advocacy & Network Officer, agreen@safekids.org, 202.662.0606.


3 Carbon Monoxide Poisoning, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Available at https://www.cdc.gov/co/faqs.htm