



March 26, 2021

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

Honorable Earl "Buddy" 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 27 Safe Kids coalitions from 15 states across the country, we write to thank you and express our support for your proposed legislation, the "Nicholas and Zachary Burt Memorial 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, in other times of the year, natural disasters such as hurricanes. As we write this letter, Texans, including its children, sustained serious injuries and death from CO poisoning as a result of the extreme cold weather and electric power grid failures.

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 CO poisoning per year, but in those tragedies, only a little over 40 percent of homeowners had working CO detectors.^{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, AK
Safe Kids Central California
Safe Kids Santa Clara/San Mateo, CA
Safe Kids Larimer County, CO
Safe Kids Miami-Dade, FL

Safe Kids Illinois
Safe Kids Chicago, IL
Safe Kids Edwards, Wayne and White Counties, IN
Safe Kids Bartholomew County, IN
Safe Kids Oakland County, MI
Safe Kids Minnesota

Safe Kids Northwest Metro Minneapolis, MN
Safe Kids New York
Safe Kids Otsego County, NY
Safe Kids Allegheny County, PA
Safe Kids Greater Dallas, TX
Safe Kids Greater Houston, TX
Safe Kids Grand Forks, ND
Safe Kids Minot, ND

Safe Kids Fargo-Moorhead, ND
Safe Kids Bismarck-Mandan, ND
Safe Kids Utah
Safe Kids Thurston County, WA
Safe Kids Wisconsin
Safe Kids Southeast Wisconsin
Safe Kids Wood and Clark Counties, WI
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.