



CAMPUS Firewatch

May 16, 2011

Dear Representative:

Every year, over 3,000 civilians die from fires across the United States, one about every 3 hours, and someone is injured every 31 minutes. Approximately every 23 seconds a fire department responds to a fire with a home fire reported every 87 seconds. In addition to the toll of human lives lost and injured, fires cause \$12.5 billion in property damage, according to information compiled by the National Fire Protection Association.

The fire problem has a significant negative effect upon our society and economy and there are a number of different approaches that we can take to address it. One of them is educating people as to their personal responsibility when it comes to fire safety. If we can prevent a fire from breaking out in the first place we can avoid having the tragic outcomes that are repeated every single day in cities and towns across the country.

But where to start? By teaching today's college students about fire safety, we can have a dramatic impact upon fire safety on campuses and for the years after they graduate, saving tens of thousands of lives and untold numbers of injuries. What they learn about fire safety while in school are lessons that they need to know for the rest of their lives – indeed, "fire safety is a part of living."

The Campus Fire Safety Education Act of 2011, S 620 and HR 1199, will provide colleges and universities with the ability to develop and deliver cutting-edge programs to today's youth and make a profound change for this generation and those to follow. These programs can teach them the knowledge and skills they need to prevent and survive a fire, skills that will be relevant throughout their lives.

As national organizations focusing on fire safety and higher education, we all realize what an impact fire prevention education can have and we ask that you consider co-sponsoring this important legislation. Your leadership will help to establish a new level of fire safety awareness and knowledge that will have long-ranging implications and will, unquestionably, save lives today and for years to come.

Thank you very much for your support.



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