



June 30, 2009

The Honorable Amy Klobuchar
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Klobuchar:

On behalf of Safe Kids USA, I want to thank you for sponsoring S. 1216, the *Residential Carbon Monoxide Poisoning Prevention Act*. Safe Kids has long been a proponent of carbon monoxide (CO) alarms as a way to prevent the potentially fatal effects of CO poisoning, which is responsible for more than 500 unintentional deaths and approximately 15,000 emergency department visits each year in the U.S.

Young children are especially vulnerable to the effects of CO. Due to their smaller bodies, children process CO differently than adults and may be more severely affected by carbon monoxide in their blood. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 135 children ages 14 and under died from unintentional, non-fire related CO poisoning from 1999-2004.

Safe Kids and its more than 600 coalitions and chapters across the country have advocated for the rapid detection of carbon monoxide by distributing CO alarms to countless families in need. It is estimated that CO alarms may prevent half of such related deaths from occurring. Though CO alarms are effective when installed properly, we know that many families do not have this vital piece of equipment in their homes. We applaud you for including an incentive grant program in S. 1216 to encourage states to pass CO laws, which sends the important public health message that CO alarms are needed in residences to reduce the risk of CO poisoning for the entire family.

The *Residential Carbon Monoxide Poisoning Prevention Act*, if passed, would also ensure the quality of CO alarms available for sale in the marketplace by requiring a mandatory safety standard for these devices. Currently, CO alarms are subject to a voluntary standard and your bill would give individuals peace of mind that the safety device they are purchasing would work as intended in the event of CO incident.



If Safe Kids can be of any assistance to you, please do not hesitate to contact me at (202) 662-4463 or Tanya Chin Ross, Senior Public Policy Associate, at (202) 662-0606. Thank you for your leadership on this important safety initiative.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Alan Korn", written over a horizontal line.

Alan Korn
Executive Director & General Counsel

cc: Jonathan Becker, Office of Senator Klobuchar

Safe Kids USA is a member of Safe Kids Worldwide, a global network of organizations whose mission is to prevent accidental childhood injury, a leading killer of children 14 and under. More than 450 coalitions in 18 countries bring together health and safety experts, educators, corporations, foundations, governments and volunteers to educate and protect families.