



May 28, 2015

The Honorable Amy Klobuchar
U.S. Senator
302 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Klobuchar,

On behalf of Safe Kids Worldwide, I write to add our support for your proposed legislation, S. 1250 "Nicholas and Zachary Burt Memorial Carbon Monoxide Poisoning Prevention Act of 2015," legislation to help states prevent tragedies involving carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning. CO poisoning attacks three vulnerable groups of people: young kids, senior citizens and pregnant mothers. Safe Kids applauds you for your leadership in introducing the bill, as well as your past efforts in this regard.

We call carbon monoxide (CO) the "silent killer" because of its characteristics: a colorless, odorless, undetectable gas. It has been found to cause cognitive impairment, loss of consciousness, coma and even death. The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reports that an average of 430 people die every year in the U.S. from accidental CO poisoning. Annually, there are over 20,000 CO-related emergency room visits reported in the U.S and more than 4,000 are hospitalized for CO poisoning. As stated earlier, small children are particularly vulnerable to elevated levels of CO. In addition, several studies conclude that minority communities have twice the risk of experiencing CO poisoning. Moreover, CO poisoning increases as a risk not only in cold weather states in winter, but also in hurricane states because of the use of gas fired generators.

It is so right that you have named the bill in honor of Nicholas and Zachary Burt. Flu-like symptoms are a sign of CO poisoning which is what the Burt's thought was at work on that tragic winter night in Kimball, Minnesota. But it was CO poisoning. Weakened by their own poisoning, the Burt's struggled to rescue their children. The infant Zachary and Nicholas, 4-years-old, were already dead. Thankfully, 5-year-old Ryan, survived as did his heroic parents. At Safe Kids, we hear stories like the Burt's all too often.

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. A study in the *Journal of the American Medical Association* reported that audible electronic CO detectors could have prevented over 50 percent of CO-related deaths. Your legislation can help prevent these tragedies from happening.

We would like to offer our resources to help you pass this legislation. That would include mobilizing our coalitions around the nation to support the bill. Your office may contact Anthony Green, our Director of Public Policy at 202.662.0606 or agreen@safekids.org.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kate Carr".

Kate Carr
President and CEO
Safe Kids Worldwide



safekids.org