



March 20, 2019

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

Honorable Earl 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 24 Safe Kids coalitions from 13 states across the country, we write to thank you and express our support for your proposed legislation, the “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 natural disasters such as hurricanes—areas where the risk of carbon monoxide poisoning is especially acute.

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.<sup>1</sup> 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 unintentional CO poisoning per year, but only a little over 40 percent of homeowners report having a working CO detector.<sup>2 3</sup> 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  
Safe Kids Central California  
Safe Kids Santa Clara/San Mateo  
Safe Kids Larimer County  
Safe Kids Miami-Dade  
Safe Kids Illinois  
Safe Kids Chicago

Safe Kids Edwards County  
Safe Kids Bartholomew County  
Safe Kids Oakland County  
Safe Kids Minnesota  
Safe Kids Northwest Metro Minneapolis  
Safe Kids New York  
Safe Kids Otsego County  
Safe Kids Grand Forks

Safe Kids Minot  
Safe Kids Fargo-Moorhead  
Safe Kids Bismarck-Mandan  
Safe Kids Utah  
Safe Kids Thurston County

Safe Kids Wisconsin  
Safe Kids Southeast Wisconsin  
Safe Kids Wood County  
Safe Kids Worldwide

---

<sup>1</sup> Raub JA, Mathieu-Nolf M, Hampson NB, Thom SR. Carbon monoxide poisoning—a public health perspective. *Toxicology*. 2000; 145:1–14. [PubMed: 10771127]

<sup>2</sup> 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>.

<sup>3</sup> U.S. Census Bureau and U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, 2011 American Housing Survey.