January 17, 2007

Dear Senator:

We would like to ask for your support of the Campus Fire Safety Right-to-Know Act of 2007 which is going to be introduced in the 110th Congress. This legislation, which passed the U.S. House of Representatives in 2006, will provide invaluable information to students and parents about the level of fire safety on our nation’s campuses.

Since January 2000, 99 people have been killed in campus-related fires with almost 90% of them occurring in off-campus and Greek student housing. Common factors in a number of these fires include:

- Lack of automatic fire sprinklers
- Missing or disabled smoke alarms
- Careless disposal of smoking materials
- Impaired judgment from alcohol consumption

The fire in January 2000 that killed three freshmen at Seton Hall University was a dramatic “wake-up” call. Unfortunately, the toll continues with fires across the nation continuing to claim the lives of young people, our future. This legislation will help significantly in addressing this issue.

By arming students and parents with information such as how many fires a school has had, how well-equipped their residence halls are with life-saving automatic fire sprinkler and fire alarm systems, and how much fire prevention training is provided to students, informed decisions can be made on selecting a fire-safe school. Unfortunately, parents don’t think to ask these critical questions until it is too late. This legislation will help to address that problem.

Much of this information is already compiled by each school and this legislation will facilitate making it more accessible. It will be invaluable in furthering the cause of fire safety across our nation. We ask that you join with us in helping to protect our campuses and our future.

Thank you for your support.
John Dean
President
National Association of State Fire Marshals

Kyle Pitson
Vice President
National Electrical Manufacturers Association

James Shannon
President
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