



Governor Deval Patrick
State House
Room 360
Boston, MA 02133

January 2, 2013

Dear Governor:

Each of us signing this letter knows what it is like to have lost a loved one while they are away at college. This is a time in their lives of growth, learning and exploration, but it came to a tragic end from a fire that, so often, is preventable and avoidable. What students learn through fire safety education is not just to keep them safe for the time they are in college – they are literally lessons for life. At least 158 people have died in campus-related fires since January 2000, with 85% of them occurring in off-campus housing, and education and awareness are vital to helping stop this tragic loss of life.

In the first semester of this year, three students have already died in fires in Wisconsin and Minnesota. As tragic as each of these fires is, however, we believe we are on a significant downward trend since 20 people died in 2006 and we believe that this tremendous progress is because of growing fire safety awareness. Since 2005, 228 proclamations designating September as Campus Fire Safety Month have been issued to help raise this awareness and encourage schools to provide fire prevention and safety education. In addition, the United States Senate and House of Representatives have also issued resolutions in each session of Congress.

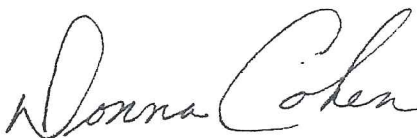
We would like to ask you to participate again this year by signing a proclamation designating September as Campus Fire Safety Month, as Massachusetts has done eight times (one of only four states with a perfect record)! Our goal is to have every state and commonwealth taking part and to encourage schools throughout the country to hold programs during September. With your support, we can work on making sure that there are even fewer fire deaths in the coming year.

Please join with us this September and make it a priority to promote campus fire safety awareness and support our efforts in providing safe housing for our young people who are our nation's future. If you should need any additional information, please contact Ed Comeau from Campus Firewatch at 918-926-6328 or ecomeau@campus-firewatch.com.

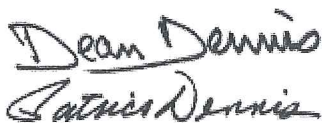
Thank you for your support!



Barrett Cohen
4155 Spring Mill Way
Maineville, Ohio 45039
Brother of Austin (A.J.) Cohen
March 12, 1979 – December 10, 2000
University of Dayton
Dayton, Ohio



Donna Cohen
5301 Mahogany Run Ave. Unit 1013
Sarasota, Florida 34241
Mother of Austin (A.J.) Cohen
March 12, 1979 – December 10, 2000
University of Dayton
Dayton, Ohio



Dean and Patricia Dennis
8139 Oakbrook Ct.
Cincinnati, Ohio 45243
Parents of Andrea Dennis
September 21, 1982 - April 13, 2003
Ohio University
Athens, Ohio
(Ohio State University fire April 13, 2003)

Bob Fitzsimons
Maryanne Fitzsimons

Bob Fitzsimons
Maryanne Fitzsimons
98 Marie Crescent
Commack, NY 11725
Parents of Kerry Rose Fitzsimons
January 21, 2012
Marist College
Poughkeepsie, New York



Andy Grooms
P.O. Box 2990
Ruidoso, New Mexico 88355
Father of Stephen Andrew Grooms
October 16, 1981 - October 28, 2001
Catawba College
Salisbury, North Carolina

Rich and Darlene Heiden

Rich and Darlene Heiden
2311 Green Haze Avenue
Racine, Wisconsin 53406
Parents of Brian Heiden
January 26, 1984 – September 20, 2003
University of Minnesota
Minneapolis, Minnesota



Donna Henson
3108 West 137th Street
Leawood, KS 66224
Mother of Dominic Passantino
April 12, 1980 - May 8, 1999
University of Missouri
Columbia, Missouri

Pamela Johnson

Pamela Johnson
PO Box 70
Grifton, North Carolina 28530
Mother of Cody Pilkington
November 14, 1985 - October 7, 2005
North Carolina State University
Raleigh, North Carolina

Lettie Latiolais

Lettie Latiolais
103 Joliet Street
New Iberia, Louisiana 70563
Mother of Kurt J. Latiolais, II
June 22, 1981 - October 18, 2003
Louisiana State University
Baton Rouge, Louisiana

Gail L. Minger

Gail Minger
14 Lanman Rd.
Niceville, Florida 32578
Mother of Michael Minger
June 24, 1979 - September 18, 1998
Murray State University, Kentucky
Murray, Kentucky

Kathleen Osborn Moritz

James Osborn

Kathleen Moritz
2920 W 101 Place
Evergreen Park, Illinois 60805
James Osborn
10213 East Desert Cove Ave.
Scottsdale, Arizona 85260
Parents of Tanner "TJ" Osborn
September 22, 1982 - June 7, 2005
Chicago, Illinois

Christopher M. Ross Sr.

Christopher M Ross Sr.
1651 Riverdale Ave
Sheboygan, Wisconsin 53081
Father of Christopher M Ross Jr.
July 6, 1985- June 7, 2005
Chicago, Illinois

Linda and Gary Schlittler

Linda and Gary Schlittler
1046 Treeline Court
Manchester, Missouri 63021
Parents of Brian Schlittler
April 22, 1981 - November 29, 2006
University of Missouri
St. Louis, Missouri

Edye Smith

Edye Smith
4503 Wetherill Rd.
Bethesda, Maryland 20816
Mother of Stephen Smith
June 21, 1982 – April 10, 2005
Miami University
Oxford, Ohio

Jim Speckien

Jim Speckien
321 Woodridge Dr.
Vadnais Heights, Minnesota 55127
Parent of Amanda Speckien
May 5, 1984 – September 20, 2003
University of Minnesota
Minneapolis, Minnesota

Patricia Talen

Tim Talen

Tim and Patty Talen
2686 Pickett Street
Plymouth, Wisconsin 53703
Parents of Peter Joseph Talen
August 24, 1984 - November 18, 2007
University of Wisconsin UWLAX
LaCrosse, Wisconsin

Linda C. Turnbull

Doug Turnbull

Doug and Linda Turnbull
983 Woodcreek Drive
Milford, Ohio 45150
Parents of Julie Turnbull
May 8, 1983 - April 10, 2005
Miami University
Oxford, Ohio

Kimberly A. Wencil

Kimberly Wencil
532 12th Street NE
Owatonna, Minnesota 55060
Mother of Elizabeth Wencil
September 12, 1983 – September 20,
2003
University of Minnesota
Minneapolis, Minnesota

Bonnie C. Woodruff

Leon F. Woodruff, Jr.

Bonnie and Leon Woodruff
3513 Chaucer Place
Raleigh, North Carolina 27609
Parents of Benjamin Woodruff
April 27, 1976 - May 12, 1996
University of North Carolina
Chapel Hill, North Carolina

***Campus Fire Safety Month
Proclamation***

Proclamation

To express the support of the establishment of September as Campus Fire Safety Month, and for other purposes.

Whereas recent student-related housing fires in Wisconsin, Kansas, Indiana, Minnesota, Maryland, California, New York and Michigan and other schools across the country have tragically cut short the lives of some of the youth of our Nation;

Whereas since January 2000, at least 158 people, including students, parents, and children have died in campus-related fires;

Whereas approximately 85 percent of these deaths have occurred in off-campus occupancies;

Whereas a majority of the students across the Nation live in off-campus occupancies;

Whereas a number of fatal fires have occurred in buildings where the fire safety systems have been compromised or disabled by the occupants;

Whereas it is recognized that automatic fire alarm systems and smoke alarms provide the necessary early warning to occupants and the fire department of a fire so that appropriate action can be taken;

Whereas it is recognized that automatic fire sprinkler systems are a highly effective method of controlling or extinguishing a fire in its early stages, protecting the lives of the building's occupants;

Whereas many students are living in off-campus occupancies, Greek housing, and residence halls that are not adequately protected with automatic fire sprinkler systems and automatic fire alarm systems or adequate smoke alarms;

Whereas it is recognized that fire safety education is an effective method of reducing the occurrence of fires and reducing the resulting loss of life and property damage;

Whereas students are not routinely receiving effective fire safety education throughout their entire college career;

Whereas it is vital to educate the future generation of our Nation about the importance of fire safety behavior so that these behaviors can help to ensure their safety during their college years and beyond; and

Whereas by developing a generation of fire-safe adults, future loss of life from fires can be significantly reduced: Now, therefore, be it

***Campus Fire Safety Month
Proclamation***

Resolved, That the Governor—

- (1) supports the establishment of September as Campus Fire Safety Month;
- (2) encourages schools and municipalities across the country to provide educational programs to all students during September and throughout the school year; and
- (3) encourages schools and municipalities to evaluate the level of fire safety being provided in both on- and off-campus student housing and take the necessary steps to ensure fire-safe living environments through fire safety education, installation of fire suppression and detection systems and smoke alarms and the development and enforcement of applicable codes relating to fire safety.