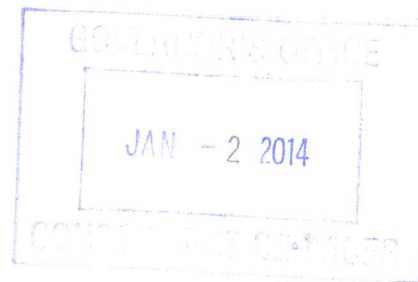


# CAMPUS Firewatch

January 2, 2014

Governor Deval Patrick  
State House  
Room 360  
Boston, MA 02133



Dear Governor Patrick:

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. As this letter is being written, at least 163 people have died in campus-related fires since January 2000, with 87% of them occurring in off-campus housing, and education and awareness are vital to helping stop this tragic loss of life.

Across the nation, there is a fire every 85 seconds, someone is injured every 32 minutes, and someone is killed every 3 hours. The leading cause of all fires is cooking fires, and the leading cause of all fatal fires is careless disposal of smoking materials-both very preventable, but only if people are taught what to do to avoid them from happening. This education can start in college and help build a fire-safe generation for the future.

In the first semester of this year, one student has been killed in a fire at Purdue University. As tragic as this fire is, however, we believe we are on a significant downward trend since 20 people died in 2006, and last academic year was the third lowest in history with seven fire deaths. Since 2005, 264 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 Congress.

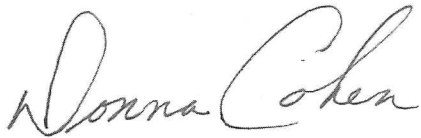
We would like to ask you to participate this year by signing a proclamation designating September as Campus Fire Safety Month. Our goal is to have every state and commonwealth taking part and to encourage schools throughout the country to hold programs during September. With your support, we can work 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 413-296-1982 or [ecomeau@campus-firewatch.com](mailto:ecomeau@campus-firewatch.com).

Thank you for your support!



Barrett Cohen  
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Brother of Austin (A.J.) Cohen  
March 12, 1979 – December 10, 2000  
University of Dayton  
Dayton, Ohio



Donna Cohen  
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Mother of Austin (A.J.) Cohen  
March 12, 1979 – December 10, 2000  
University of Dayton  
Dayton, Ohio



Dean and Patricia Dennis  
8139 Oakbrook Ct.  
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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*

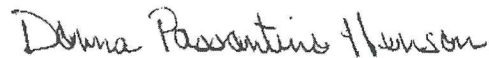
Bob Fitzsimons  
Maryanne Fitzsimons  
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January 21, 2012  
Marist College  
Poughkeepsie, New York



Andy Grooms  
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Father of Stephen Andrew Grooms  
October 16, 1981 - October 28, 2001  
Catawba College  
Salisbury, North Carolina

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Rich and Darlene Heiden  
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Parents of Brian Heiden  
January 26, 1984 – September 20, 2003  
University of Minnesota  
Minneapolis, Minnesota



Donna Henson  
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Mother of Dominic Passantino  
April 12, 1980 - May 8, 1999  
University of Missouri  
Columbia, Missouri

***Pamela Johnson***

Pamela Johnson  
PO Box 70  
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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  
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June 22, 1981 - October 18, 2003  
Louisiana State University  
Baton Rouge, Louisiana

*Gail L. Minger*

Gail Minger  
PO Box 721  
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Mother of Michael Minger  
June 24, 1979 - September 18, 1998  
Murray State University, Kentucky  
Murray, Kentucky

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*James Osborn*

Kathleen Moritz  
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James Osborn  
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Scottsdale, Arizona 85260  
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September 22, 1982 - June 7, 2005  
Chicago, Illinois

*Christopher M. Ross Sr.*

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

***Linda and Gary Schlittler***

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

*Edye Smith*

Edye Smith  
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Mother of Stephen Smith  
June 21, 1982 – April 10, 2005  
Miami University  
Oxford, Ohio

*Jim Speckien*

Jim Speckien  
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Parent of Amanda Speckien  
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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  
La Crosse, Wisconsin

*Genda 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 Indiana, Massachusetts, Ohio, Minnesota, Wisconsin 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 163 people, including students, parents, and children have died in campus-related fires;

Whereas approximately 87 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.