

Letter re: Support of Nursing Home Fire Safety Act

November 11, 2005

The Honorable John Larson
United States House of Representatives
1005 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515
Fax: (202) 225-1031

Dear Representative Larson,

The Catholic Health Association of the United States (CHA), representing over 500 long term care facilities, as well as Catholic-sponsored hospitals, health care systems and sponsors, wishes to commend you for your sponsorship of the "Nursing Home Fire Safety Act of 2005."

The safety and well-being of vulnerable nursing home residents is one of the most critical issues in health care today. As we find innovative ways to provide care and services, new approaches to treat chronic illness, and creative ways to improve the quality of the lives entrusted in our care, we must also continually strive to provide the safest environment possible. Your legislation, calling for the adoption of the 2006 Life Safety Code's requirement of full sprinklers of all nursing homes, will help ensure that residents have the safe environment they have a right to expect.

CHA also commends the legislation's provision on sprinkler retrofit assistance grants. Facilities with limited financial ability to fully sprinkler their buildings will need this assistance, and we are pleased that priority will be given to applications demonstrating hardship need.

Please let us know how the Catholic Health Association can assist in support of this important bill.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael Rodgers". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline.

Michael Rodgers
Vice President, Public Policy and Advocacy