



October 31, 2005

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The Honorable John Larson  
Long House Office Building  
Room 1005  
Washington, DC 20515-0701

Dear Representative Larson:

**The American College of Health Care Administrators (ACHCA) strongly supports the intent of the bill you are about to introduce as the Nursing Home Fire Safety Act of 2005.**

There have been too many tragedies involving the residents of nursing homes recently and this bill would do much to alleviate the likelihood of additional tragedies. With as many as 4,000 nursing homes built in the United States before sprinklers were required, it is essential we protect those residents who are most vulnerable. To do so, we must also provide critical financial assistance for facilities to quickly install or retrofit automatic sprinklers. Even the needless loss of one additional life due to the lack of sprinklers is untenable.

ACHCA supports a federal requirement for ALL nursing home facilities to be equipped with automatic fire sprinklers within five years with the aid of low-interest loans from the government. In some special instances a hardship grant may be needed to permit the retrofitting of older nursing homes.

Sincerely,

Susan A. Burton, CAE  
President & CEO