

CAMPUS Firewatch

January 25, 2019

Dear Governor:

For 14 years, Governors across the nation have been signing proclamations recognizing September as Campus Fire Safety Month. Since 2005, there have been 423 proclamations signed as well as resolutions in the United States Senate and House of Representatives. And these efforts at raising the awareness about college fire safety are working.

College-related fire deaths have dropped dramatically during this time, from a high of 20 in 2006/2007 to no deaths, three years ago. Unfortunately, following that achievement, we continued to have fire deaths in the following years. This shows that we must continue to be vigilant and redouble our efforts to ensure that each new freshmen class, and their parents, know how to choose fire-safe housing and how to live a safe lifestyle. And not just during the time they are in college – these are lessons that they can use for the rest of their lives.

Each of us signing this letter knows what it is like to have lost a loved one while they are away at college. This was 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 175 people have died in college-related fires across the nation since January 2000, with 87% of them occurring in off-campus housing. In fact, since 2006, every housing fire death has occurred off-campus. Education and awareness are vital to helping stop this tragic loss of life.

We would like to ask for your help in raising awareness by signing a proclamation designating September 2019 as Campus Fire Safety Month. Together, we can make sure that there are even fewer fire deaths in the coming year.

Please join with us this September to promote campus fire safety awareness and support our efforts in providing safe housing for our young people, our nation's future. If you should need any additional information, please contact Ed Comeau from Campus Firewatch at 413-896-5718 or ecomeau@campus-firewatch.com.

Thank you for your support!