

**CENTER FOR CAMPUS FIRE SAFETY/COMMON VOICES/CONGRESSIONAL FIRE SERVICES INSTITUTE/
INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF ARSON INVESTIGATORS/INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FIRE CHIEFS/
INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FIRE FIGHTERS/INTERNATIONAL CODE COUNCIL/
INTERNATIONAL FIRE SERVICE TRAINING ASSOCIATION/INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY OF FIRE SERVICE INSTRUCTORS/
NORTH AMERICAN FIRE TRAINING DIRECTORS/NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF STATE FIRE MARSHALS/
NATIONAL FIRE PROTECTION ASSOCIATION/NATIONAL FIRE SPRINKLER ASSOCIATION/NATIONAL VOLUNTEER FIRE COUNCIL**

March 9, 2018

The Honorable Lamar Alexander
Chair, Senate Health Education, Labor, and
Pensions Committee
428 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Patty Murray
Ranking Member, Senate Health Education, Labor, and
Pensions Committee
154 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Alexander and Ranking Member Murray,

On behalf of the nation's fire and emergency services, we are writing you today to urge your support for maintaining fire safety reporting requirements at our nation's colleges and universities.

In 2008, Congress passed the Campus Fire Safety Right-to-Know Act, as part of the Higher Education and Opportunity Act (P.L. 110-315). This landmark legislation requires colleges and universities to provide students with basic fire safety statistics, including the number of fires on campus and their causes, the number of injuries and deaths related to fires, and the amount of property damage related to fire. The legislation also requires the institutions to report on fire safety systems, the number of regular fire drills, fire prevention and education policies, and any future fire safety activities and plans.

Recently, the House Education and Workforce Committee approved H.R. 4508, the Promoting Real Opportunity, Success, and Prosperity through Education Reform (PROSPER) Act. Unfortunately, the legislation severely weakens the fire safety reporting requirements enacted by Congress a decade ago.

According to the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), U.S. fire departments responded to an annual average of 4,100 structure fires in dormitories, fraternities, sororities, and other related properties from 2011-2015. These fires caused an annual average of 35 civilian injuries and \$14 million in direct property damage. Furthermore, the Center for Campus Fire Safety reports that from January 2000 - January 2017, 128 fatalities occurred on a college campus, in Greek housing or in off-campus housing within three miles of a campus.

The fire safety reporting requirements Congress implemented in 2008 have had a tremendous benefit in improving fire safety awareness on college and university campuses across the nation, as well as enhancing existing fire prevention and coordination efforts. As the Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee begins work on the reauthorization of the Higher Education Act of 1965, we urge you to preserve these important life-saving reporting requirements.

Thank you for your continued commitment to the safety of our nation's colleges and universities.

Sincerely,

Center for Campus Fire Safety
Common Voices
Congressional Fire Services Institute
International Association of Arson Investigators
International Association of Fire Chiefs
International Association of Fire Fighters
International Code Council

International Fire Service Training Association
International Society of Fire Service Instructors
North American Fire Training Directors
National Association of State Fire Marshals
National Fire Protection Association
National Fire Sprinkler Association
National Volunteer Fire Council