

**THE
CATHOLIC HEALTH
ASSOCIATION**
OF THE UNITED STATES



June 14, 2006

The Honorable Christopher Dodd
United States Senate
448 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510
Fax (202) 224-1083

The Honorable Richard Burr
United States Senate
217 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510
Fax (202) 228-2981

Dear Senator:

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 introducing S. 3489, the "Nursing Home Fire Safety Act."

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. This 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.

We thank you again, and are happy to provide our assistance in support of this important bill.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael Rodgers". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Michael Rodgers
Senior Vice President, Public Policy and Advocacy

WASHINGTON OFFICE

1875 Eye Street, NW
Suite 1000
Washington, DC 20006-5409

Phone 202-296-3993
Fax 202-296-3997

www.chausa.org