



NATIONAL CENTER FOR ASSISTED LIVING

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March 26, 2009

The Honorable Michael Arcuri
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Rep. Arcuri:

The National Center for Assisted Living (NCAL) would like to commend you for reintroducing legislation that would provide funds for retrofitting assisted living and other long term care facilities with fire safety infrastructure and equipment. NCAL represents more than 2,600 not-for-profit and proprietary assisted living and residential care communities dedicated to continuous improvement in the delivery of professional compassionate care and services for the elderly and disabled. NCAL is the assisted living voice of the American Health Care Association.

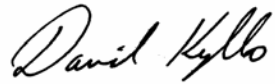
Fire safety is a priority for NCAL and we believe that all assisted living facilities should have effective fire safety systems. Our board has voted to support full sprinklering of new assisted living facilities and retrofitting older facilities where economically and physically feasible. We also believe that smoke detectors should be installed in all rooms and common areas in buildings that are not fully sprinklered.

While virtually all new assisted living facilities are sprinklered, funds provided under "Long-Term Care Life Safety Act" (H.R. 1680) could be of critical help to operators of existing facilities that need financial assistance in order to install sprinklers and other life safety equipment. This funding is of critical importance as states and local governments, which determine assisted living fire safety standards, continue strengthening sprinklering and other life safety requirements.

In addressing the retrofitting issue, NCAL believes that public funds are best targeted to installing sprinklers in existing facilities that lack them. The main reason is that sprinklering is extremely effective in saving lives. Multiple death fires are extremely rare in facilities that have been fully sprinklered.

Thank you again for your leadership in sponsoring this legislation and for your commitment to fire safety in long term care settings. We look forward to working with you on this and other issues of importance to our profession and the one million frail, elderly residents in assisted living facilities across the nation.

Sincerely,

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

David Kylo
Executive Director