

Bill No. 365 – AN ACT CONCERNING THE STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS IN CARBON MONOXIDE POISONING CASES

Mr. Chairman Senator Coleman and members of the judicial committee:

My name is Glenn Anderson and I am from Durham. I am a constituent of Senator Meyer who is a member of the judicial committee, and I am here today to offer testimony in support of bill # 365.

On December 17, 2004 my wife Kelly Anderson was poisoned by carbon monoxide.

Carbon monoxide is a colorless, odorless, tasteless, toxic gas that prevents the organs within your body from being supplied with oxygen. When the brain is deprived of oxygen due to carbon monoxide poisoning, a chemical toxic reaction begins which causes the brain cells to die and the brain to atrophy. This process ignites a ticking time bomb, which will explode years later after your initial exposure to carbon monoxide, and will cause you to have numerous neurological (physical and psychological) medical problems. This is what has happened to my wife Kelly since she was poisoned by carbon monoxide.

I work from my home, so on a daily basis I am able to see how my wife Kelly struggles due to her severe physical brain damage which was caused by the latent effects of carbon monoxide poisoning. Kelly's brain no longer has the capability to retrieve new / old information in a timely manner since she has lost so much physical brain matter in the frontal, parietal and temporal lobes of her brain. This causes Kelly to forget tasks that she was in the process of performing which prevents her from completing the task. Kelly's brain still contains all of her intellect and memories from before the CO induced brain damage. This causes Kelly to become upset and frustrated while trying to perform tasks that she knows she has done before, but is now unable to do (problem solving, making decisions, remembering what she did 10 minutes ago) which then leads to panic attacks while trying to perform these normal daily tasks.

Kelly has also gone through a sleep study test, which showed that her ability to learn and build new memories has been negatively impacted since her brain no longer goes into sleep stages 3 and 4. There are four stages of sleep that people need to go through during the night, with stages 3 and 4 being the stages where your prior day experiences are moved and stored within the brain as memories. Sleep stages 3 and 4 are also the stages that allow you to wake up in the morning feeling refreshed. My wife Kelly sleeps over 12 hours per day and is still tired and feels physically weak when she wakes up due to not receiving sleep in stages 3 and 4.

My wife Kelly also experiences and suffers from night terror attacks. Kelly will wake up during the night screaming due to having an intense feeling of horror and fear, and she will sometimes see hallucinations. Kelly now needs to sleep with a CPAP oxygen

machine for the rest of her life, in order to try to prevent further brain damage and to try to have her brain go into sleep stages 3 and 4.

Kelly's health has plummeted drastically, due to brain damage which was induced by CO, which has caused her to feel heartbroken, because she has lost her independence and the quality of life that she previously enjoyed. All of Kelly's doctors have informed her that her brain damage is permanent and that Kelly will never regain the brain that she has lost. She wants to be the same Kelly that her family knew and loved before she was poisoned by CO. Regardless of how Kelly now feels about herself due to her medical problems, her husband and her family will always love her very much and will always be very proud of her forever.

I have witnessed firsthand, how my wife Kelly has felt victimized since finding out that the current Connecticut Statute of Limitations does not protect her, and does not take into account the latent effect of carbon monoxide poisoning. When Kelly was initially poisoned by CO seven years ago, she was told that she was okay and was lucky to be alive. Seven years later, Kelly had a shocking rude awakening when she was told that she was really not okay, due to the latent effects of CO poisoning which was diagnosed as the cause of her severe medical problems.

I wish to thank Senator Ed Meyer and members of the Connecticut Trial Lawyers association - President - John J. Kennedy Jr., Executive Director - Neil Ferstand and lobbyist Zeke - Jeff Zyjeski and everyone else involved on behalf of my wife Kelly, for their time and effort towards getting Bill 365 passed into law.

In conclusion, I urge you to please support and pass Bill 365 in order to make the law fair for the citizens of the State of Connecticut and allow them to seek restitution when they have been poisoned by carbon monoxide due to negligence and then find themselves suffering years later from the latent effects of this toxic gas. Please don't abandon my wife Kelly or anyone else that has been the unfortunate victim of CO poisoning due to negligence and leave them outside of the protection of the law.

There is another Bill 5394, which is also currently going through the legislative process, which would mandate the installation of carbon monoxide detectors in residential buildings. If Bill 5394 had been passed eight years ago into law, and the law had been enforced and obeyed, my wife Kelly may not have been poisoned by CO. It is always better to be proactive and prevent problems, but when being proactive fails, there needs to be a law in place that will protect the citizens of the State of Connecticut. Passing Bill 365 will provide that protection to all of citizens of the State of Connecticut if they unfortunately find themselves severely injured years later after being exposed to carbon monoxide due to negligence. I hope that in the future, no one will ever have to endure the pain of being permanently injured, as my wife Kelly has been.

Thank you.