

Bill No: 920 – AN ACT CONCERNING THE STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS IN CARBON MONOXIDE POISONING CASES

Mr. Chairman Senator Coleman, Representative Fox 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 # 920.

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 latent medical process is described in the testimony that has been provided by Dr. Duarte Machado (Assistant Professor of Neurology – Yale School of Medicine) in regards to the severe brain damage that Kelly has to live with on a daily basis. The graphic MRI images of Kelly's brain within Dr. Machado's testimony unfortunately show the massive amount of brain tissue Kelly has physically lost when compared to MRI Images of another woman Kelly's age.

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.

Since July of 2013 Kelly's heart has endured five Takotsubo Cardiomyopathy attacks due to emotional stress and constant anxiety which is triggered by the carbon monoxide brain damage that has destroyed the portion of the brain that handles these functions.

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 carbon monoxide 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 carbon monoxide poisoning which was diagnosed as the cause of her severe medical problems.

My wife Kelly is a warm, loving and very brave woman who fights every day to get her health and life back as she suffers from what has been done to her and taken away from her.

What would you do if your wife, or your husband, or your children, or one of your constituents were unfortunate enough to be poisoned by CO, and then survived, only to find out years later that they had developed severe life threatening medical problems due to the latent effects of carbon monoxide poisoning caused by negligence, and that the law is not there to help or protect them? Would you just accept that nothing can be done, or would you stand up and have the truth be known and then work towards having the problem corrected ?

In conclusion, I urge you to please support and pass Bill 920 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 carbon monoxide poisoning due to negligence and leave them outside of the protection of the law. Passing Bill 920 will provide 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. Hopefully no one will ever be injured like my wife Kelly has been. Thank you.