



Testimony of Kidde before the Public Safety & Security Committee

HB5272, An Act Concerning Carbon Monoxide Detection and Warning Equipment in Businesses and Residential Buildings

March 1, 2016

Kidde, part of UTC Climate, Controls and Security headquartered in Farmington, Connecticut, appreciates the opportunity to offer the following comments in support of HB5272 which if passed will extend carbon monoxide poisoning protections to certain places of business. Kidde is a leading innovator and manufacturer of residential fire safety products, including carbon monoxide and smoke alarms for both residential and commercial applications.

Carbon monoxide (CO) is an odorless, colorless and tasteless gas, and the leading cause of accidental poisoning deaths in the United States. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, CO poisoning claims more than 400 lives a year, and sends more than 20,000 to hospitals for emergency medical care.

Carbon monoxide is a by-product of incomplete combustion. Potential sources include common gas-burning appliances such as furnaces, water heaters, stoves, ovens and grills, as well as other fuel-burning devices like fireplaces, engines and generators. If any of these common appliances is installed improperly or malfunctions, carbon monoxide can build up inside a dwelling or other structure, leading to illness and death.

Because you can't see, smell or taste carbon monoxide, you may not even realize that you are being poisoned. Initial symptoms mimic the flu, and include headache and nausea. The ONLY safe way to detect this deadly gas is with a working carbon monoxide alarm. Connecticut's legislature recognized the dangers of CO and in 2005 required that CO alarms be installed in all newly constructed homes. Today, nearly every state has a similar requirement.

Kidde commends the sponsors and members of the Committee for elevating the need for certain places of businesses to be equipped with devices to help detect carbon monoxide. We urge your support of HB5272, as its implementation will help save Connecticut lives. Thank you for the opportunity to address the committee on this important safety issue. We hope you will call on Kidde if we can be a resource to you in any way.