

116TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. RES. _____

Designating September 2020 as “Campus Fire Safety Month”.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

Ms. COLLINS submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the
Committee on _____

RESOLUTION

Designating September 2020 as “Campus Fire Safety
Month”.

Whereas campus-related housing fires at colleges in Texas, Oregon, Illinois, Pennsylvania, other States, and Washington, D.C. have tragically cut the lives of several young individuals short;

Whereas, since January 2000, at least 175 individuals, including students, parents, and children, have died in campus-related fires;

Whereas approximately 87 percent of those campus-related fire deaths occurred in off-campus housing;

Whereas a majority of college students in the United States live in off-campus housing;

Whereas a number of fatal fires have occurred in buildings in which the occupants had compromised or deactivated fire safety systems;

Whereas automatic fire alarm systems and smoke alarms provide early warning of a fire that is necessary for occupants of a building and the fire department to take appropriate action;

Whereas an automatic fire sprinkler system is a highly effective method of controlling or extinguishing a fire in its early stages, protecting the lives of building occupants;

Whereas many college students live in off-campus housing, a fraternity or sorority house, or a residence hall that is not adequately protected by an automatic fire sprinkler system, an automatic fire alarm system, or an adequate smoke alarm;

Whereas, due to the COVID–19 pandemic, college students are taking more courses online and spending more time indoors, thus increasing the need for fire safety and prevention education;

Whereas fire safety education is an effective method of reducing the occurrence of fires and the resulting loss of life and property damage;

Whereas college students do not routinely receive effective fire safety education while in college;

Whereas educating young individuals in the United States about the importance of fire safety is vital to help ensure that young individuals engage in fire-safe behavior during college and after college; and

Whereas developing a generation of adults who practice fire safety may significantly reduce future loss of life: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the Senate—

2 (1) designates September 2020 as “Campus
3 Fire Safety Month”; and

4 (2) encourages administrators of institutions of
5 higher education and municipalities across the
6 United States—

7 (A) to provide educational programs about
8 fire safety to all students of institutions of
9 higher education in September and throughout
10 the school year;

11 (B) to evaluate the level of fire safety pro-
12 vided in both on-campus and off-campus stu-
13 dent housing; and

14 (C) to ensure fire-safe living environments
15 through—

16 (i) fire safety education;

17 (ii) the installation of fire suppression
18 and detection systems and smoke alarms;

19 and

20 (iii) the development and enforcement
21 of applicable codes relating to fire safety.