**A** **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

TO MEMORIALIZE THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES TO APPROVE LEGISLATION THAT WOULD REQUIRE CARBON MONOXIDE DETECTORS IN FEDERALLY SUBSIDIZED PUBLIC HOUSING.

Whereas, two residents of Allen Benedict Court died of carbon monoxide poisoning, and over four hundred people lost their homes because of dangerous living conditions at the public housing complex in Columbia, South Carolina, this year; and

Whereas, United States Senator Kamala Harris unveiled a bill requiring carbon monoxide detectors in federally subsidized public housing after an investigation showed how a widespread lack of the devices posed a threat to millions of low‑income families; and

Whereas, at least eleven public housing residents have died of carbon monoxide poisoning since 2003, but the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) does not require carbon monoxide detectors; and

Whereas, Senator Harris’s proposed legislation would require all public housing to have at least one carbon monoxide detector on each floor of each unit, based on standards determined by HUD; and

Whereas, Representative Joe Cunningham said, “This bill helps deliver that peace of mind among our most vulnerable by ensuring federally assisted housing have carbon monoxide detectors. The two senseless deaths at Allen Benedict Court apartments in Columbia, South Carolina, could have been prevented, and we have an urgent obligation to make sure such tragedies never happen again. Every parent deserves the peace of mind of knowing their children are safe when they tuck them in at night”; and

Whereas, state and local requirements on carbon monoxide detectors are patchy and inconsistently enforced. Since HUD does not require detectors and, therefore, does not check for them during regular inspections, many residents of taxpayer‑funded housing have little protection against carbon monoxide, a colorless, odorless gas that at high levels can kill in minutes. The elderly and young children, who make up a disproportionate number of the country’s 4.6 million public housing residents, are particularly vulnerable to carbon monoxide’s dangers. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives:

That the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives, by this resolution, memorialize the Congress of the United States to approve legislation that would require carbon monoxide detectors in federally subsidized public housing.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to the members of the South Carolina Congressional Delegation.

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