

STATE OF ILLINOIS

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

Proclamation

WHEREAS, student-related housing fires in Texas, Oregon, Illinois, Washington, DC, Pennsylvania, and other school across the country have tragically cut short the lives of some of the youth of our nation; and,

WHEREAS, since January 2000, at least 175 people, including students, parents and children have died in college-related fires; and,

WHEREAS, approximately 87 percent of these deaths have occurred in off-campus occupancies; and,

WHEREAS, many students across the nation live in off-campus occupancies; and,

WHEREAS, fatal fires have occurred in buildings where the fire safety systems have been compromised or disabled by the occupants; and,

WHEREAS, it is recognized that automatic fire alarm systems and smoke alarms provide crucial early warning to occupants and the fire department of a fire so that appropriate action can be taken; and,

WHEREAS, many students are living in off-campus occupancies, Greek housing, and residence halls and may not be adequately protected with automatic fire sprinkler systems and automatic fire alarm systems or adequate smoke alarms; and,

WHEREAS, it is recognized that fire safety education is an effective method of reducing the occurrence of fires and reducing the resulting loss of life and property damage; and,

WHEREAS, students are not routinely receiving effective or any fire safety messages throughout their college career or young adult life; and,

WHEREAS, it is vital to educate the future generation of our nation about the importance of fire safety behavior so that these behaviors become a top priority to ensure their safety during their college years and beyond; and,

WHEREAS, by developing a generation of fire-safe adults, future loss of life from fires can be significantly reduced;

THEREFORE, I, JB Pritzker, Governor the State of Illinois, proclaim September 2019 **Campus Fire Safety Month** in Illinois, and encourage schools and municipalities across Illinois to provide educational outreach programs to all students, not just during September, but throughout the school year; and encourage colleges, universities, and municipalities to evaluate the level of fire safety being provided in both on and off-campus student housing and take the necessary steps to ensure fire-safe living environments through fire safety outreach education, installation of fire suppression.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Illinois to be affixed.

Done at the Capitol in the City of Springfield,
this TWENTY-SIXTH *day of* AUGUST, *in*
the Year of Our Lord, two thousand and
NINETEEN, *and of the State of Illinois,*
two hundred and FIRST.



Deese White
SECRETARY OF STATE

JB Pritzker
GOVERNOR