



To: Chairman Carter and the Michigan House Regulatory Reform Committee
From: Erika Scheffer, Head of U.S. State Government Relations – Carrier Corporation
Date: February 20, 2024
Re: Letter of Support – Senate Bill 328: Standards for smoke alarms

Dear Chairman Carter and the Honorable Members of the Michigan House Regulatory Reform Committee,

On behalf of Kidde, a Carrier company and one of the world's largest manufacturers of fire safety products, I am writing in strong support of Senate Bill 328, legislation that would restrict the sale of battery powered smoke alarms to that of long-term, sealed, tamper-resistant battery powered smoke alarms in Michigan.

Smoke alarms are essential to protect Americans in their homes. According to the National Fire Protection Association, a fire occurs in a home every 89 seconds across the United States, representing 74% of all fire deaths and loss. Nearly 3-out-of-5 home-fire deaths were in homes without working smoke alarms; and missing or dead batteries were responsible for 67% of home fires where a smoke alarm did not alert. This means that the number one cause of a smoke alarm failing to function is because its battery has been disabled, removed or otherwise tampered.

The National Fire Protection Association also states that a working smoke alarm nearly doubles the chance of a successful escape from a fire.

Smoke alarms equipped with a sealed, long-term batteries prevent tampering and save lives. These devices also eliminate the potential for human error during battery installation.

Long-term, sealed battery powered smoke alarms also reduce product and packaging waste by eliminating the need for twice-a-year battery replacement for the life of the alarm (ten years), making the product more environmentally friendly.

The technology is not proprietary. All major smoke alarm companies manufacture these products, and they are carried at all major retailers.

Fourteen states currently have varying degrees of requirements for long-term, sealed, tamper-resistant battery powered smoke alarms. And in addition to Michigan, five other states either have active legislation or are currently in the process of updating their regulations to address the issue.

Lastly, the average price for a replaceable battery powered smoke alarm is \$10. The average price for long-term, sealed, tamper-resistant battery powered smoke alarm is \$20. The average price difference is around \$10 between the standard replaceable battery powered smoke alarm and the long-term sealed, tamper-resistant battery powered smoke alarms. However, after factoring in the cost of replacing the batteries twice-a-year for the lifespan of the alarm, the sealed, long-term battery powered smoke alarms are the more cost-effective option.



Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony today and I hope that you will help keep the citizens of Michigan safe in their homes by supporting SB328. I would also like to extend a special thank you to Representative Mueller for sponsoring this important piece of legislation in the past.

I can be reached at Erika.Scheffer@Carrier.com for any follow up questions or information.

Sincerely,

Erika Lynn Scheffer

Erika Scheffer
Head of U.S. State Government Relations
Carrier Corporation