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Parents Can Thank Gov. Blagojevich for Safer Student Housing

Orland Park, IL (August 10, 2004) – In one of the strongest and most progressive public safety actions in the state’s history, Gov. Rod R. Blagojevich signed a bill today requiring the installation of fire sprinkler systems in all public and private college and university dormitories by 2013.

“With his approval of this legislation, the Governor has demonstrated his commitment to protecting the lives of college students on campuses across the state,” said Tom Lia, executive director of the Northern Illinois Fire Sprinkler Advisory Board. “The bill’s sponsors and the Governor are to be commended for the roles they each played in taking this giant step forward in campus safety.”

The Governor affirmed his support of fire sprinklers by saying, “Quite simply, sprinkler systems save lives. As parents, we shouldn’t have to worry that our college students might be killed in a dorm fire when something as simple as a sprinkler system could save their lives.”

Fire sprinkler systems have a track record of success that dates back more than a century. Sprinklers are a highly effective solution to the fire problem and installation of sprinkler systems is growing in most properties.

Rep. Daniel Burke (D-Chicago) and Sen. Lawrence Walsh (D-Joliet) co-sponsored HB 4361. “This is a proud day for our lawmakers, and a great day for Illinois,” Lia said. “Students here and all over the country now have another excellent reason for choosing a college or university in Illinois for their education.”

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NIFSAB is a non-profit organization composed of fire officials, contractors, building officials, suppliers, architects, engineers, and manufacturers. NIFSAB is dedicated to educating and informing the public and elected and appointed officials of the vital role that fire sprinklers play in fire protection.

For more information visit www.firesprinklerassoc.org.