

SB 112 House Testimony
Ohio House Commerce and Labor Committee
June 25, 2024

Chairman Johnson, Vice-chair Manchester, Ranking Member McNally, and Committee Members,

Thank you for the opportunity to address the committee today regarding SB 112, the Ohio Childhood Safety Act. My name is Jayson Karas, and I serve as a Principal Voting Technical Committee Member for the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), specifically contributing to NFPA 80 and NFPA 105 standards. With over twenty-six years of experience in installing and maintaining fire-rated doors and hardware across various sectors, including healthcare and education, I come before you not only as a technical expert but also as an advocate for enhancing safety measures in our schools.

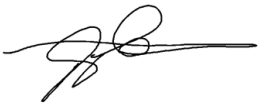
SB 112 is crucial for enhancing school safety by mandating annual inspections of ingress, egress, security, fire, and smoke-rated doors in educational institutions. These doors are vital components that must function effectively to ensure the safety of all occupants, aligning with the NFPA 101 Life Safety Code. Such inspections, integrated with a school's Emergency Management Plan, will provide a clear layout of the facility and identify areas of protection or vulnerability, thereby supporting emergency services in their preparedness and response efforts.

The Department of Homeland Security's SchoolSafety.gov underscores the importance of proactive measures in preventing, mitigating, and responding to various school safety threats. By ensuring the readiness of fire and emergency doors through regular inspections, SB 112 aligns with these federal recommendations and strengthens our state's commitment to school safety.

Drawing from my experience in healthcare, where similar inspections are mandated under CMS regulations, I have seen firsthand the positive impact of such measures. Transitioning to annual inspections of fire and smoke doors proved manageable and significantly enhanced facility safety. The structured inspection process outlined in NFPA 80 ensures compliance and readiness, reinforcing administrators' obligations to uphold life safety standards.

In conclusion, SB 112 represents a critical step forward in safeguarding our schools and protecting our children. I commend Senator Michael Rulli for introducing this important legislation, which I firmly believe will save lives. I urge the committee's support for SB 112 and am available to address any questions you may have.

Thank you.



Jayson Karas
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