



April 13, 2010

On behalf of the statewide members of the Wisconsin Alliance for Fire Safety (WAFS), we implore this legislative body support AB 890. The WAFS (www.wafs.org) is a nonprofit nineteen year organization with a mission *to promote, encourage and foster fire safety, burn prevention and public fire safety education. We support burn survivors of all ages as well as sponsorship of the Summer Camp for Burn Injured Youth.*

Please help support to ban the selling and distribution of novelty lighters. Designed to look like toys, novelty lighters are causing serious injuries and possibly death to children and families throughout the United States.

If you would visit Ebay and view the assorted “novelty lighters,” you would witness the problem the items present to our precious youngsters. These fire starting instruments are disguised as baseballs, cell phones, key rings, pistols and toy animals among the other many deceptive colorful items that attract children to them as *play* things.

In 2006, the National Fire Protection Association estimated that 14,500 structure fires involving fire-play were reported to U.S. municipal fire departments. These fires resulted in an estimated:

- 130 civilian fire deaths
- 810 civilian injuries and
- \$328 million in direct property damage annually

Most child-playing home fires with lighters start in the bedroom (42%) by curious 5 year olds or younger, approximately 50%. Nearly 63% of all fatal victims of fires by playing with fire are children 5 years and younger.

Again for Wisconsin’s younger population and those affected by their misguided decisions, please support AB 890 to protect against this cause of fire that leads to tragic injury and death.

Sincerely,

Daniel J. Gengler

Daniel J. Gengler, Chairperson
Wisconsin Alliance for Fire Safety

Wisconsin Alliance for Fire Safety
P.O. Box 1442
Brookfield, Wisconsin 53008
(800) 315-0911