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The Honorable Mike Thompson
231 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable David Joyce
1124 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Thompson and Representative Joyce:

Our organization, which represents over 2,000 physicians, nurses, occupational and physical therapists, researchers, social workers, fire fighters, and hospitals with burn centers, write to express our support for your introduction of H.R. 806, the Portable Fuel Container Safety Act of 2019. This legislation will create common-sense safety measures for portable fuels containers that will prevent thousands of injuries each year.

As members of the burn community, we are all too familiar with the devastating injuries that can arise from portable fuel containers that are not properly equipped with flame mitigation devices, or flame arrestors. While some manufacturers have begun to include flame arrestors on their containers, the practice has yet to be adopted as an industry-wide standard. Until manufacturers include flame arrestors on all types of containers, consumers will continually be at-risk of serious injury.

Burn injuries are among the most severe any patient can face. In addition to causing untold pain, burn injuries typically require a lengthy treatment, recovery, and rehabilitation period that imposes a tremendous burden on burn victims' families. Furthermore, those with the most severe injuries must endure a lifetime of disability and disfigurement.

Consumers should not face this level of risk when correctly using portable fuel containers. That is why we support this legislation as an inexpensive and effective way to ensure consumer protection and prevent the explosions and instances of fuel jetting that can occur when containers lack flame arrestors.

Thank you for your leadership. We look forward to working with you to ensure passage of this legislation and to eliminate the risk of preventable burn injuries.

Sincerely,

Amalia Cochran, MD, FACS, FCCM