



# National Association for Child Window Safety



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*Senator Mazie Hirono  
713 Hart Senate Office Bldg, Washington DC 20510*

Dear Honorable Senator Hirono,

In 2011, a young child, Evan English, fell from a window 40 inches from the floor in military housing, and died. Evan is just one of dozens, or hundreds of children, that have fallen from windows in military housing. As a result, in the “National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2018” the legislature established a mandate, “Evan’s Law”, to require Public Private Venture housing managers (PPV’s) to take measures to protect children in their military housing from window falls.

The legislature also mandated that the Secretary of Defense enter into an agreement with an independent entity to submit to the Secretary and the congressional defense committees an assessment of child safety issues in military housing. Has an entity submitted an assessment? If so, is it available for public review?

The National Association for Child Window Safety (NACWS) recognizes passive barriers, child window safety screens and child window safety bars, as the only acceptable means to prevent child window falls. Other devices, such as window opening control devices, have been shown not to work because the occupants remove, disable or break them to allow the windows to open as they were designed to do. A study performed by the NACWS found that the safety screens reduced window maintenance expense significantly. Installing such devices save tax dollars as well as children from traumatic brain injury and death. Children’s Hospitals and Child Safety Organizations across the nation support such legislation.

One of the PPV’s, Americas Lendlease, has taken a pro-active position and has begun installing child window safety screens across their military portfolio. I hope the other PPV’s are following Lendlease’s responsible leadership, as required, in preventing these needless tragedies.

Evan’s Law is a great beginning to preventing these needless child falls. However, this law needs to be improved to include any operable windows with sill heights below 42 inches from the floor and requiring passive barriers, screens or bars, that meet ASTM F2090 standards.

Respectfully,

James Graham