



PATRICK TESTIN STATE SENATOR

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Sen. Testin’s bill banning unsafe lighters signed into law

PITTSVILLE, Wis. – Earlier today, a bipartisan bill authored by Sen. Patrick Testin (R-Stevens Point) that bans the sale of counterfeit and unsafe lighters in Wisconsin was signed into law at a ceremony held at Pittsville Elementary School.

China and other countries have been exporting knock-off lighters into the United States for decades. These unregulated devices have led to thousands of injuries, billions of dollars in property damage, enormous healthcare costs and – unfortunately – death.

Making matters worse, the Internet has made it much easier and cheaper to purchase counterfeit lighters. The U.S. was the top importer of lighters in 2022 at nearly 700 million. About 70 percent of the models tested in North America fail ASTM International Safety Standards.

“Studies continue to prove that complying with safety standards decreases healthcare expenses by more than \$1 billion, hospital-grade injuries by 84 percent and burn injuries by 74 percent,” Sen. Testin said. “By simply defining what an ‘unsafe lighter’ is, we will vastly reduce unnecessary damages and injuries and lessen the strain on our hospitals and first responders.”

The location of the bill signing ceremony was significant because Pittsville Fire Chief Jerry Minor has spent many years advocating for this legislation. He has been pushing for this change since 2008, when an 8-year-old Pittsville boy died from injuries he sustained in a house blaze that started due to fire play.

“I would like to thank Chief Minor and all the other public safety officials who have worked tirelessly over the past several years to shine a light on the dangers of knock-off lighters and the many injuries and deaths they can cause,” Sen. Testin said. “Chief Minor’s strong support for this bill is one of the main reasons why we were finally able to reach our ultimate goal. Now, our communities will be much safer for all Wisconsinites.”

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