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June 4, 2019

Mr. Robin Nicoson, Chairman
The Fire Prevention and Building Safety Commission
Indiana Department of Homeland Security
302 W. Washington Street
Room E208
Indianapolis, IN 46204



Ref: Variance #19-06-35
Door Locking Device in Event of Active Shooter, Kokomo

Dear Mr. Nicoson,

I was in attendance at the June 4 commission meeting and heard the presentation of the above referenced variance. As you may recall the variance was tabled for legal clarification. However, as an architect charged with public safety and having some experience with safety of young children in today's unfortunate violent climate, I am surprised that this door locking device even was considered to be tabled. The device is extremely dangerous and should be banned period.

Any device that would effectively lock anyone, particularly children, in an environment with no route of escape and limiting the access of first responders should not be permitted.

Unfortunately, the design and development of this device seems to be generated solely from the perspective of an active shooter situation. What about the situations where someone might want to confine a child, or children, in a space without interruption? Daily reading of local news shares enough of these situations that I do not need to enumerate them. This device, rather than protecting children, would in those instances provide shelter and protection for the perpetrators.

My hope is that the commission will see through the issue of whether this item is legal or not and view it as the dangerous device it really is.

Thank you for your time!

Sincerely,

James A Dauss
Indiana Registered Architect Ind. #AR00034295