

# Assemblyman **PAUL KORETZ**

**Forty-second Assembly District**

*proudly representing the communities of West Hollywood, Beverly Hills, Los Angeles, Century City, Westwood, Bel Air, Brentwood, West Los Angeles, Hollywood, Hancock Park, Universal City, Studio City, and Sherman Oaks*



**For Immediate Release**  
**September 17, 2004**

**Contact: Teresa Stark**  
**(916) 319-2042 Cell (916) 715-2203**

## **KORETZ BILL TO PREVENT CARBON MONOXIDE POISONING BEHIND BOATS BECOMES LAW**

*The Anthony Farr and Stacy Beckett Boating Safety Act Informs Boaters About This Deadly Risk*

(Sacramento) – AB 2222, groundbreaking legislation by Assemblyman Paul Koretz (D-West Hollywood) to make boaters aware of the risk of carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning behind boats, was signed today by Governor Schwarzenegger. The law is the first of its kind in the country.

The new law will be known as the Anthony Farr and Stacy Beckett Safe Boating Act of 2004, in memory of 11-year-old Anthony Farr of El Dorado Hills and 15-year-old Stacy Beckett of Chino, both of whom died from being overcome by carbon monoxide while teak-surfing behind a boat. Anthony and Stacy’s Law will inform boaters of the risk of CO poisoning and will also reduce injuries and fatalities by prohibiting "teak surfing" and other activities in which a person is near the back of a motorized boat, near the exhaust.

“This new law will protect California boaters and their friends and family from this hidden killer. No one should ever have to watch a family member mysteriously slip into the water behind the boat and never surface,” said Assemblyman Koretz. “I am so thankful to everyone involved in making this happen, including Governor Schwarzenegger. He should be commended for signing this legislation, which will surely become a model for other states. His action today will educate more Californians about CO poisoning and ultimately save lives.”

All marine engines emit lethal amounts of CO, which is a colorless, odorless, tasteless gas that can kill anyone in minutes if they are too close to the boat’s exhaust. The highest concentrations of CO are around swim decks and areas where occupants frequently sit or swim at the rear of the boat because the exhaust ports are located nearby.

“Carbon monoxide emissions from boats have claimed too many lives already, including many children who were out having fun with their friends and family,” said Assemblyman Koretz. “Each of these senseless, tragic deaths was preventable. Boaters must become aware that they should never be near the back of the boat when the engine is running, not even for a minute.”

**-- more --**

Assemblyman  
**PAUL KORETZ**



**Forty-second Assembly District**

*proudly representing the communities of West Hollywood, Beverly Hills, Los Angeles, Century City, Westwood, Bel Air, Brentwood, West Los Angeles, Hollywood, Hancock Park, Universal City, Studio City, and Sherman Oaks*

According to several federal agencies, in the last few years, there have been 111 deaths and 445 near-deaths around the country, of both children and adults, due to CO poisoning while they are near boats. Thirty-nine Californians have suffered from boat-related CO poisoning at such places as Discovery Bay, Folsom Lake, The Delta, Catalina, Lake Shasta, and Lake Havasu. The new trend of teak surfing, dragging or body surfing, where individuals hold on to the swim platform while the boat moves forward, and then perhaps let go to body surf the boat's wake, has increased the number of these poisonings.

AB 2222 will require the state Department of Boating and Waterways and the Department of Motor Vehicles to work together to get warning information out to boaters in their boat registration renewal. The bill also requires that when any boat is sold in California, new or used, that warning stickers be affixed to the boat, so both the driver and anyone behind the boat can clearly see the warning. AB 2222 also makes it an infraction to operate a boat whenever anyone is teak-surfing, body-surfing or occupying the swim platform or swim ladder when the engine is running. Finally, the bill calls upon boat manufacturers to invest in research and development to find ways to clean up these engines and re-design their boats to reduce the risk.

"Our family's hope is that this new law will save lives by raising awareness of the dangers of the poison emitted from all family ski boats," said Sheri Beckett. "Our daughter Stacy is gone forever. By signing AB 2222 into law, the Governor is helping protect other California boating families from experiencing the life changing tragedy of losing a child," she said.

AB 2222 takes effect on January 1, 2005 with a delayed implementation until May 1, 2005 for the mailing and labeling requirements in the bill.

###

