



MONTGOMERY COUNTY COUNCIL
ROCKVILLE, MARYLAND

DAWN LUEDTKE
COUNCILMEMBER
DISTRICT 7

March 3, 2026

The Honorable Brian Feldman
Chair, Education, Energy and the Environment Committee
2 West Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

RE: Senate Bill 624, *Jillian and Lindsay Wiener Short-Term Rental Fire Safety Act*

Dear Chair Feldman,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in strong support of SB 604, the *Jillian and Lindsay Wiener Short-Term Rental Fire Safety Act*. This bill would require clear evacuation diagrams, emergency contact information, functioning fire extinguishers, and properly installed and maintained smoke alarms in short-term rental units. It would also ensure that booking services notify hosts of these vital requirements and that local jurisdictions inspect units for compliance.

This legislation is a necessary and compassionate response to the tragic deaths of Montgomery County residents Jillian and Lindsay Weiner, who lost their lives in a house fire at a short-term rental in New York with faulty wiring and inadequate fire detection. Their deaths are a heartbreaking reminder that the lack of basic safety and prevention measures can have devastating consequences.

By establishing clear fire safety standards for short-term rentals, this bill protects Maryland families, visitors, and communities. Meeting these life-saving safety standards should never be optional.

I urge the committee to issue a favorable report on SB 624 and advance this important public safety measure.

Very truly yours,

Dawn Luedtke
Montgomery County Councilmember, District 7