

Rowen Trask  
Baltimore, MD  
Private Citizen – Best Friend of Jillian Wiener  
March 6, 2026

To: Chair and Members, House Economic Matters Committee  
Re: SUPPORT – SB0624 / Jillian and Lindsay Wiener Short-Term Rental Fire Safety Act

My name is Rowen Trask, and I am Jillian Wiener’s best friend. I am submitting this testimony in strong support of SB0624, the Jillian and Lindsay Wiener Short-Term Rental Fire Safety Act.

August 3rd, 2022 is a date that will always be sealed in my memory. Learning of the sudden and tragic death of Jilly and her younger sister Lindsay shook me to my core. I still remember speaking to Jilly on the phone the night before, only a few hours before the fire broke out that resulted in her death. No one could be prepared to lose someone you love in an instant. It’s unfair for someone like Jilly or Lindsay – someone with such a spark for adventure and discovery – to unexpectedly have her life taken away so soon. No one should have to mourn the loss of a best friend at such a young age.

I support the Jillian and Lindsay Wiener Short-Term Rental Fire Safety Act because:

**Jillian and Lindsay’s deaths were preventable.**

The circumstances of the fire showed how quickly a fatal outcome can occur in a rental unit without properly enforced fire-safety measures. Simple requirements like properly placed smoke and carbon monoxide alarms, a fire extinguisher, and a posted escape plan can give people the precious extra minutes they need to survive.

**This is about protecting guests and families.**

Short-term rentals host people who are unfamiliar with a building’s layout and safety features. Mandated safety measures would protect not only guests like the Wiener family, but also neighbors and first responders who risk their lives during a fire.

**Passing SB0624 honors Jillian and Lindsay and creates meaningful change.**

Turning grief into action by establishing common-sense, lifesaving standards ensures their deaths lead to practical reforms that could spare other families from similar tragedy. While nothing can be done to bring them back, passing this bill would honor their memory and help prevent others from experiencing the same unbearable loss. This bill is one more step for their mother and their older brother to turn their grief into something that can save future lives.

The requirements in the Jillian and Lindsay Wiener Short-Term Rental Fire Safety Act are basic common sense, and they are lifesaving. This bill should be implemented thoughtfully, with intentional and reasonable timelines to help hosts comply. The cost of smoke alarms and clear information is far smaller than the cost of a life.

For these reasons, I urge the Committee to vote in favor of the Jillian and Lindsay Wiener Short-Term Rental Fire Safety Act. We must do everything we can to prevent another needless tragedy.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,  
Rowen Trask