

**Cathy Fink & Marcy Marxer
2106 Cascade Rd.
Silver Spring, MD 20902**

**SB 0970 SUPPORT
Fire Protection and Prevention- Sprinkler Systems and Smoke Alarms Requirements
(Melanie Diaz Sprinklers Save Lives Act)
Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee**

March 15th, 2023

Dear Chair Feldman, Vice Chair Kagan, and Members of the Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee:

I write in support of the Melanie Diaz Sprinklers Save Lives Act (SB 0970). As a Silver Spring resident, I believe it is critical that the legislature takes action to protect people in similar situations better than the current law protected Melanie's life.

On February 18, 2023, Melanie Diaz died in a devastating fire at the Arrive high-rise apartment complex in Silver Spring. The fire displaced over 400 residents, led to the hospitalization of 20 people, including firefighters responding to the incident, and caused the tragic death of Melanie and her two dogs.

Melanie was 25 years old and had accomplished so much in her all-too-brief time on this planet. She was a truly kind, thoughtful, and caring human being. Her life ended suddenly, leaving friends, neighbors, and family to grieve her loss. This cannot be allowed to happen to anyone else.

We believe stronger fire safety protections could have helped slow the fire and smoke that caused her tragic death. This critical legislation would require high-rise residential buildings to install an automatic smoke alarm in each public corridor accessible by units in high-rise buildings beginning on July 1, 2023.

We urge a favorable report on SB 0970.

Sincerely,
Cathy Fink & Marcy Marxer