

SB0970 – Support

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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:

My name is Mary Astudillo and personally knew Melanie Diaz and very close friends with her family in Florida. On February 18th, Melanie Diaz died at age 25 due to carelessness and lack of a sprinkler system and fire alarms in the apartment building she was living at the time. My intent is to ensure that sprinkler system be required including smoke alarms to prevent another tragedy, which should have been prevented. Melanie had a promising future ahead in her life which was cut short by this tragedy, she was a graduate from Georgetown University, an intelligent young woman beginning her career in DC. She was a happy vibrant woman who always brought a smile to others.

This bill is absolutely necessary to prevent another tragedy. These buildings have an obligation to provide safe housing now and not wait any further to install sprinkler systems and fire alarms. The tenants of these buildings pay their rent, and should be protected in the residence they live in. IF these buildings can not provide adequate housing, than they should not have the right to provide dangerous rental housing.

I urge a favorable report on SB 0970.

Regards,

Mary Astudillo