SB 970 – SUPPORT
Fire Protection and Prevention –
Sprinkler Systems and Smoke Alarms
- Requirements
Education, Energy & the Environment
March 16, 2023

I am writing in support of Senate Bill 970, the Melanie Diaz Sprinklers Save Lives Act.

Early in my life, I was impacted by a residential fire in a multi-family building and, since then, have always been concerned with fire safety measures. Now, I live close to an apartment complex that exploded and burned in 2016, which had multiple fatalities. One year ago, I had friends displaced from their apartment building by explosion and fire and saw firsthand the disruption to their lives and property, although they were not physically hurt. And, I live a short distance from the apartment building that claimed the life of Melanie Diaz just weeks ago.

NONE of these buildings had sprinklers and, under current law, none of them are required to have sprinklers! It is time to take the steps to retrofit our older high-rise buildings with sprinklers. And, yes, government should also help fund the retrofitting costs.

Not addressed in this bill is the problem of garden and mid-rise buildings not having adequate fire protection systems. Efforts need to be made to also improve safety systems in these other multi-family complexes.

One important component of SB970 is the requirement to provide – at no cost to the residents – visual or other fire notification mechanisms for residents who are Deaf or otherwise not able to respond to audible alarms.

<u>I am amazed that the requirements provided for in SB970 do not already exist.</u> Frankly, these requirements seem like they should have been in place since the 1960s, not in 2023. How many lives could have been saved? How many will NOT be saved if this legislation is not approved, even for a year?

Please SUPPORT Senate Bill 970, Fire Protection and Prevention – Sprinkler Systems and Smoke Alarms – Requirements, the Melanie Diaz Sprinklers Save Lives Act.

Thank you.

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