

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

I am a concerned citizen who was friends with Melanie Diaz, who died tragically in the apartment fire in Silver Spring, Maryland. This tragedy could have easily been prevented had there been sprinklers in each apartment to douse the fire. Basic safety mechanisms should be a requirement, not a luxury, for housing within Montgomery County and Maryland as a whole.

I urge a favorable report on SB 0970, so that residential complexes can be equipped with the appropriate safety tools immediately, not until 2033- almost 10 years later.

Sincerely,

Varsha Menon