

SB907 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:

We write in support of the Melanie Diaz Sprinklers Save Lives Act (SB 0970). As co-workers of Melanie Diaz at the Aspen Institute for the last 1.5 years 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, we lost our friend and colleague Melanie Diaz 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 been part of our team at the Aspen Institute for nearly two years. She was originally from South Florida, graduated from Georgetown University School of Foreign Service, and had interned at NASA, the Office of the Surgeon General, and Beeck Center for Social Impact before joining our team. Melanie accomplished so much in her all-too-brief time on this planet. More importantly than all that though – Melanie was a truly kind, thoughtful, and caring human being. She took care of her coworkers and friends. She always put others first. This cannot be allowed to happen to anyone else.

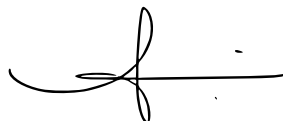
We believe stronger fire safety protections could have helped slow the fire and smoke that caused her tragic death. This critical legislation would require high-rise residential buildings to install an automatic smoke alarm in each public corridor accessible by units in high-rise buildings beginning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

We urge a favorable report on SB 0970.

Sincerely,



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