

WRITTEN TESTIMONY

SB 0970 – 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 15, 2023

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

I am a resident of Maryland (Washington, D.C. before then) and in support of SB 0970 (Melanie Diaz Sprinklers Save Lives Act). I do not represent a company, but I stand in solidarity with the family and friends of the deceased.

SB 0970 is necessary because, simply put, if you look at any new modern building sprinkler systems and smoke alarms are present. The purpose of smoke detectors is intended to provide early warning of fires while sprinkler systems are intended to provide warning and control the development of a fire. Had these systems been present I believe the fire at Arrive apartment complex that displaced the families and damaged 89 units as well as took the life of a thriving citizen (Melanie Diaz) could have been benign and saved the life of Melanie Diaz and her two pups.

I believe we all have a moral compass. If we search within ourselves, then I believe we all can agree this is the right thing to do. In conclusion, SB 0970 is a necessary bill that should pass to protect the lives of the very people you all promise to safeguard. I urge a favorable report on SB 0970. Thank you for your time and consideration.