

**Written Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 624
Public Safety – Short-Term Rental Units – Fire Safety
The Jillian and Lindsay Wiener Short-Term Rental Fire Safety Act**

To the Members of the General Assembly:

My name is Dani Gutenplan, and I am writing in strong support of Senate Bill 624, the Jillian and Lindsay Wiener Short-Term Rental Fire Safety Act.

Lindsay was a close friend of mine at Tulane University. She was kind, vibrant, and deeply loved. Losing her was devastating, and the circumstances surrounding her death make it impossible to ignore how critical fire safety protections are in short-term rental properties. This legislation honors Lindsay and Jillian not only in name, but through meaningful, life-saving action.

As someone who regularly rents short-term homes — particularly during the summer in the Hamptons, like Jillian and Lindsay did — I know how common and routine these rentals have become for so many young people and families. When we check into a short-term rental, we assume basic safety measures are in place. We trust that there are working smoke alarms, clear exits, fire extinguishers, and posted emergency information. Yet without consistent standards and inspections, those protections are not guaranteed.

This bill establishes clear, practical, and reasonable requirements: posted evacuation diagrams, accessible emergency numbers, working fire extinguishers, properly installed and interconnected smoke alarms, and local inspections to ensure compliance. These are not burdensome regulations — they are basic safety standards that most people already assume exist.

Short-term rentals function as temporary homes. They should meet clear fire safety expectations just like hotels and other lodging accommodations. No one should lose their life because a smoke alarm was outdated, missing, or not interconnected.

Passing this bill would help prevent future tragedies. It would create accountability for hosts and booking platforms, strengthen oversight at the local level, and most importantly, protect renters who may be unfamiliar with the layout of a property in an emergency.

I urge you to support Senate Bill 624. Honoring Jillian and Lindsay with meaningful safety reform ensures their legacy brings protection and awareness to countless others.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Dani Gutenplan