

Written Testimony in Support of House Bill 1221
Jillian and Lindsay Wiener Short-Term Rental Fire Safety Act
House Economic Matters Committee

Kirsten Pollin
Bethesda, Maryland
March 3, 2026

Chair and Members of the Committee,

I am writing as a Maryland resident and parent in strong support of House Bill 1221.

Like many families, we have enjoyed the luxury and convenience of short-term rentals. Whether for a vacation, sports tournament, college visit, or family reunion, having everyone under one roof makes the stay all the more meaningful.

One assumes that there are basic safety aspects in the rental - working smoke alarms, fire extinguishers, clearly lit exits, etc. Simply the same requirements a home needs to pass inspection and receive a Certificate of Occupancy.

Tragically, these assumptions are too often wrong.

I have two amazing, thriving, beautiful daughters, one of whom's dearest friend was killed in a house fire while staying in a short-term rental. Sisters, Jillian and Lindsay, for whom this bill is named, perished in that fire. There were no working smoke detectors.

I am still able to hug my daughters and hold them close. The Wiener family can not.

These deaths were preventable, and while we can't rewrite the past, we can act to prevent another family from experiencing such anguish.

House Bill 1221 establishes simple fire safety standards: working, interconnected smoke alarms, properly posted evacuation instructions, emergency contact information, and annual inspections to ensure compliance. These are basic protections that can save lives.

This bill simply ensures that every short-term rental in Maryland has the same expected level of protection.

For Jillian and Lindsay and for every family, I respectfully urge you to give House Bill 1221 a resoundingly favorable report.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Most sincerely,



Kirsten Pollin

