

Testimony in Support of HB1221 – Public Safety Short-Term Rental Units – Fire Safety (Jillian and Lindsay Wiener Short-Term Rental Fire Safety Act)

Position: Favorable

Testifying Person: Samuel I Luxemburg

To the Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee,

This is my written testimony to respectfully urge a favorable report on House Bill number 1221.

This bill is named after one of my greatest friends and one of the brightest people I have ever had the pleasure of knowing. The deaths of Jillian and Lindsay Wiener shall be the final for this type of fatality. Action must be taken against short-term rental properties to hold all owners responsible for safe housing and accommodation.

House Bill 1221 outlines reasonable, fair, and consistent fire safety regulations that should be followed. I am a large supporter of this Bill and the outlined requirements, with no amendments.

There has been an increase in short-term rentals across the country with the introduction of services such as Airbnb, it is essential that these homes provide the same safety as expected in a hotel or other accommodation. Residents of these rentals are unfamiliar with the layout of the home and should be educated by the owner in the event of an emergency. Additionally, the local and state governments should implement inspection programs (as outlined by this Bill) that hold each property owner responsible for the safety of their rental property.

The guidelines outlined in this Bill are not burdensome and represent fundamental safety regulations that should be followed and could very well avoid the possibility of fatalities during an emergency on property. We must take action to avoid the unnecessary deaths caused by rental property owners that are negligent in their safety standards. Federal, State, and Local Governments must step in to ensure that the profits and attraction that are made from these properties do not come at a much higher cost.

I believe that House Bill 1221 outlines all the correct and necessary actions to avoid future deaths. May the memory of Jillian and Lindsay live on forever and be a reminder of the results of negligent property owners. I strongly urge the Committee to give HB1221 a favorable report.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,

Samuel I Luxemburg

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