

To: House Economic Matters Committee (ECM)

Re: House Bill 1221 (Jillian and Lindsay Wiener Short-Term Rental Fire Safety Act)

Dear Committee Members,

I write in support of the Jillian and Lindsay Wiener Short-Term Rental Fire Safety Act. Renting a short-term rental unit for vacation, work, or otherwise, should not come at the expense of personal safety. It seems beyond debate, at this day and age, that the most basic of fire safety measures, including working smoke alarms and fire extinguishers, must be part of every dwelling in this State. Short-term rentals should not be exempt. Rental property owners and booking services should want these precautions, which will increase confidence in their units and drive demand. A rental property owner or booking service unwilling to take the common sense steps required by this bill should not enjoy the benefits of receiving rental income within our State.

The costs of the proposed regulations are low, but the stakes are too high. I am a friend with the Wiener family, and knew Jillian and Lindsay, the namesakes of this bill. I have seen the great cost of young lives cut far too short because a rental property owner did not take reasonable steps to ensure proper fire safety. For these reasons, I urge our Senators and Delegates to support this bill and make rental properties safer for the public.

Jennifer Bookoff