

My name is Leia Frankel and I am writing in strong support of HB1221, the short-term rental fire safety bill being considered in honor of Jillian and Lindsay Wiener.

I was a close friend of Jilly, and losing her and Lindsay in a preventable house fire is something that has forever changed my life and the lives of everyone that knew them. They were vibrant, kind, and so deeply loved as daughters, sisters, and friends who brought light into every room that they entered. Their loss has left a gaping hole that can never be filled.

Two weeks before we lost Jilly, she told me she wanted to be a hippie nomad living on different islands, spending time in Australia, teaching yoga retreats, and most importantly doing marine science work to help save the oceans. She wanted to try going vegan because she knew it was better for the planet. She was planning road trips, concerts, and a whole slew of other adventures for her senior year at the University of Michigan. It is deeply painful that she was robbed of the beautiful future that she was so excited for and that I know she would have created for herself.

I think the most important thing you leave behind is how you made people feel, and she had such a superpower for making people feel loved. After 19 birthdays spent over spring breaks and one over COVID, I told her how excited I was to finally celebrate my 20th birthday at school. She didn't hesitate and instantly offered to throw me a huge party. It became the best birthday I've ever had, all because she made me feel so celebrated and loved. Jilly was fiercely loyal and loving and such a bright light in my life. I even have another friend that nicknamed her "Jolly" after only one time of meeting her.

I miss her contagious giggle and her giant bear hugs. I miss her music taste and the way she sometimes would laugh about something and simply say "that's so silly". I miss her being a consistent "yes" girl for any adventure. I miss her beautiful smile, the biggest, cheesiest grin.

I love the way that every story I've heard about Jilly since her passing has sounded exactly like the Jilly I knew, because she was her absolute self in every single room she walked into.

The loss of Jilly and Lindsay will forever be devastating. And what makes it infuriating is that it was entirely preventable.

This bill is about protecting families and ensuring that basic, enforceable fire safety standards are not optional in short-term rentals. These are common-sense protections that save lives.

No family should have to go through what the Wieners have gone through. They are truly the kindest, strongest family I know and I'm so proud of Alisa and Zach for advocating for this bill in honor of Jilly and Lindsay. May their names be forever associated with protecting others and let their legacy be one that saves lives.

Please pass HB1221 in honor of Jilly and Lindsay

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,  
Leia Frankel