

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

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee,

My name is Ava Spigel, and I am writing in strong support of Senate Bill 624.

This bill is very personal to me. Lindsay was my best friend, and she tragically lost her life along with her sister Jillian in a house fire while staying in a short-term rental property. The fire alarms in the home were not working properly. A safety device that should have helped protect them failed when it mattered most.

Lindsay and I shared many incredible memories together, attending high school together and later both attending Tulane University. She was the epitome of kindness, happiness, and someone who never took a single day for granted. Lindsay was more than just a friend to me—she truly felt like a sister.

I also knew her sister Jillian from childhood. Jillian loved the outdoors and adventure. She was someone who really appreciated the beauty of the world around her, and I always admired her fierceness.

No one should have to lose someone they love because basic fire safety measures were not in place. I miss Lindsay and Jillian deeply every single day.

While I feel deeply connected to this bill through personal grief, I am also passionate about this issue from a public health perspective. I hold a bachelor's degree in Public Health and am currently pursuing my second bachelor's degree, a Bachelor of Science in Nursing. Simple safety measures like functioning smoke alarms and proper inspections are some of the easiest and most effective ways to prevent harm from fires.

Short-term rentals have become very common, but safety standards have not always kept up. When guests are renting a home, they should be able to trust that the home is safe. Senate Bill 624 helps make that possible by requiring working smoke alarms, fire extinguishers, evacuation information, and inspections for short-term rentals.

Prevention is one of the most powerful public health aims. This bill is a step toward making sure something like this does not happen to another family.

Supporting this bill is a meaningful way to honor Lindsay and Jillian's memories and help protect others.

I respectfully urge the committee to give Senate Bill 624 a favorable report.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Ava Spigel