

I am writing to express my enthusiastic support for passage of MD HB1221, the Jillian and Lindsay Wiener Short Term Rental Fire Safety Act. This bill – and others like it – is long overdue and absolutely necessary to protect consumers/renters of short term accommodations. It is outrageous that a property owner can make any unsupported representation about the fire safety equipment in and condition of a property, and have it advertised on various platforms such as Airbnb and VRBO, without repercussion to the posting platform for false information. Yearly property inspections should be required, and property owners offering short term rentals must be required to show proof of inspection, to be made available for view on the rental platform, so a renter can see the successful inspection report.

The Wiener family are dear friends and the tragic, totally avoidable loss of Jillian and Lindsay remains hard to comprehend and deeply painful. Please move this bill into law in their honor, and to protect the public from any future such deaths.