

Dear Members of the Maryland General Assembly,

I write to express my ardent support for the Jillian and Lindsay Wiener Short-Term Rental Fire Safety Act.

I write as a friend of Lindsay and Jillian, and as a member of the Maryland community who knows how critical this bill is. One would think that measures as basic as working fire extinguishers and smoke alarms would be a given while staying at a rental property. It isn't. The Wiener family deserved to be and feel safe. Every family deserves that.

The evacuation diagrams, working fire extinguishers, and code-complaint smoke alarms proposed in the bill are lifesaving. In Maryland, short-term rentals can be as commonplace as staying at a hotel. There must be protections in place. It should not have taken a tragedy to ensure these basic safety measures.

I grew up with Lindsay and Jillian. From elementary-school playdates to sleepovers to karaoke car rides – Jillian and Lindsay lived every moment, the mundane ones too, with a zest for life. They deserved to have more life. Lindsay and I had plans to catch up when she got back from her vacation. I couldn't wait to hear all about it. That was supposed to happen. That should have happened. There are so many supposed-tos.

Let's honor Lindsay and Jillian, and protect thousands of families to come by taking action and establishing accountability. There was a lack of responsibility on the part of booking services and hosts that led to this tragedy. The notification requirements and inspection guidelines are critical for instilling responsibility and creating a system of accountability. Let's make sure what happened to the Wiener family does not happen again.

Please support the Jillian and Lindsay Wiener Short-Term Rental Fire Safety Act.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Ella Sperling