

## **Testimony: BILL HB1221: The Jillian and Lindsay Wiener Short – Term Rental Fire Safety Act**

This bill is profoundly important to the countless families and friends whose lives have been forever changed by this tragedy. Passing this legislation is a necessary step to ensure that millions of others never have to experience this same, unimaginable loss. What happened should never have occurred. Jillian and Lindsay should still be here with us today.

I met Jillian and Lindsay nearly 15 years ago, when Lindsay and I were eight years old and Jillian was ten. We met at Camp Seneca Lake in the Finger Lakes region of upstate New York, and from that moment on, returning there every summer became our tradition. Summer after summer, Lindsay and I became inseparable. She grew to be far more than a summer friend, she was my person.

We created traditions that lasted well beyond camp: surprising each other every birthday, planning trips together, and spending countless days at the Jersey Shore. Lindsay was the person I turned to for advice, for hard decisions, for opinions on anything that mattered. Even today, I still find myself asking, “What would Linds do?” when facing big decisions in my life. She was the most positive, energetic, and genuinely joyful person I have ever known. There was something magnetic about her, everyone wanted to be around her because of the light she carried. She lived fully, loved deeply, and was always the best version of herself. Jillian and Lindsay were truly one of a kind.

No one should ever have to endure this kind of pain and suffering. Jillian and Lindsay should be here today, thriving and living the full lives they deserved. This tragedy is deeply unfair, and it should never happen again. There are not enough words to fully express how critical this bill is, not just for those of us who loved Jillian and Lindsay, but for the millions of families it can protect in the future. If this happened once, it can happen again. Passing this bill is how we stop it. Please help ensure that no other family has to experience this kind of loss by supporting and passing the Jillian and Lindsay Wiener Short-Term Rental Fire Safety Act.