

SB 0970 SUPPORT Fire Protection and Prevention- Sprinkler Systems and Smoke Alarms Requirements (Melanie Diaz Sprinklers Save Lives Act) Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee March 15th, 2023

Dear Chair Feldman, Vice Chair Kagan, and Members of the Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee,

My name is Melissa Lorenzana and I'm in a favor of the bill SB0970. I'm a resident at Arrive Silver Spring and my unit was one of the condemned units due to the fire that occurred on Saturday, February 18.

This bill is necessary in order to protect people's safety in their home. When I moved into Arrive Silver Spring, I was under the impression the building was safe. I had no idea that the property management could have and should have done more to ensure safety for residents. The fire that occurred on Saturday, February 18<sup>th</sup> should have been contained if there were sprinklers inside the unit. Then, the many residents (including me and my family) would still have a place to live. Melanie Diaz's life could have been saved if Arrive Silver Spring had cared more about residents' safety rather than the aesthetics of the building inside and outside.

This bill needs to be passed now because it will prevent another tragic fire incident to occur that could potentially again displace residents and/or take someone's life. My family and I have had to deal with a lot since being displaced. It has been an emotional drain to have had to find a new place, replace furniture, and wash so many clothes to get the smell of smoke out. Again, this bill must be passed now! It's not fair this happened and many people are suffering the consequences because of Arrive Silver Spring lack of safety and accountability. In closing, I urge in favor on SB 0970.

Thank you,  
Melissa Lorenzana  
Unit 228A of Arrive Silver Spring