

SB 0970 – SUPPORT
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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 Ruxandra Andriescu and I am writing this in favor of bill SB 0970. I am a friend of Melanie Diaz, a medical student, and an Army officer. This bill must be passed in order to prevent senseless tragedies such as the loss of life of my dear friend and her two beloved dogs during the Arrive apartment complex fire on February 18, 2023 in Silver Spring, MD.

My hope is that no other family and loved ones will have to endure what the Diaz family did that day, for something that can be prevented with stricter sprinkler system regulations. This bill is urgent because tragedies like this can happen at any moment; without it, we are putting the lives of many innocent civilians at risk in buildings yet to be retrofitted with sprinklers.

Melanie was a wonderful young woman who left a great legacy of love and kindness in her passing. She was smart, witty, and full of life and did what she thought was best in that moment. We can't bring her back, but we have a responsibility to make the necessary changes in the wake of this tragedy to ensure that no other person or pet suffers the way the three of them did in last moments.

I urge a favorable report on SB 0970.