

**SB 0970**

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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 15<sup>th</sup>, 2023

Dear Char Feldman, Vice Chair Kagan, and Member of the Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee:

**Paragraph 1:** My name is Trey Lewis, an individual, and I am writing to you in support of passing this bill SB 0970 to become law. As an employee of a Property Management company myself, and as a personal friend of Melanie Diaz, I have insight into the easily preventable circumstances and issues that this bill intends to resolve. My goal in writing to you is for you to see the importance of this bill, in that it will bring fire and safety measures that can save countless lives from negligence of the Landlords and property managers.

**Paragraph 2:** Firstly, I see how lax the law is around safety requirements in residential and commercial leases, of which includes apartment buildings. There are no requirements to furnish apartments or apartment buildings with fire safety measures, aside from requiring staircases. In regards to high-rise buildings specifically, a staircase on its own is not enough of a safety precaution – sprinkler systems, automatic fire and automatic smoke alarms are just a few of the most basic types precautionary measures that can be taken (with only a minor cost to the Landlords comparatively) that will have a large benefit to the tenants and residents of these buildings. Ensuring the safety of its residents is the responsibility of the Landlords, and it is the responsibility of the governing bodies presiding over these Landlords to enforce these laws and policies surrounding safety that will ultimately lead to a safer tomorrow. As I previously stated, these are not only the views of myself as a resident of buildings, but also on the property management side – I have a unique perspective that gives me insight into exactly how little is required of a Landlord to ensure the safety of its tenants. I also can see the financial aspects of a Landlord, which shows that they have liquid accounts for expenses such as these in the case of needing repairs or renovations; this proves that Landlords have the financial capacity to integrate at a minimum, smoke detectors and sprinkler systems. Even if the sprinkler systems are only set up within hallways, that is still an immense help in preventing fires from spreading

quickly, which will enable more people to reach safety. Passing a bill that prevents the death of innocent people, like my friend Melanie, is something that should be passed as soon as possible. The question should not be if we can help save more lives, but how soon can we start saving them.

**I urge a favorable report on SB 0970.**