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Adrienne A. Jones, Speaker of the House
H-101, State House
100 State Circle
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Madame Speaker,

This letter is drafted to you in regards to HB 1292 Fire Protection and Prevention – Sprinkler Systems and Smoke Alarms – Requirements (Melanie Diaz Sprinklers Save Lives Act), a bill that at present is in the Maryland House Rules and Executive Nominations Committee. It is my hope to campaign for your support in moving this bill out of this committee and to the floor to be heard and voted on as soon as possible.

Had there been stronger fire and life safety protections in place, the tragedy that unfolded in Silver Spring last month as a result of the devastating fire at a high rise apartment complex -- displacing over 400 residents and taking the young life of Melanie Diaz (25 years old) and her two dogs – could have spared her life as well as the hospitalization of 20 individuals. The alarming toll of such an event prompted the urgent introduction of this legislation.

In instances of a fire in a structure, fire sprinkler systems immediately deliver a level of protection for people and property that is otherwise prolonged while waiting for first responders, allowing time for safe evacuation and reduction of structural damage. The historical success rate of sprinklers is unprecedented in life safety. It is in the interest of the general public of the great state of Maryland that Delegate Healey move this legislation along so lives can be saved from fire. I greatly appreciate your time and consideration of this correspondence, but most importantly this crucial piece of legislation.

Sincerely,

Richard W. Kozel
President/Partner
GOODRICH Fire & Life Safety
MARYLAND SPRINKLER CONTRACTORS LICENSE NUMBER: MSC-598



1312 Decatur Street, NW
Washington, DC 20011



771-717-8010