

SBO970 Written 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, 2023

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

I am a neighbor of Melanie Diaz's fiancé, Michael Sabolvarro. I am writing in support of SB 0970. Melanie's life  
was claimed in the 2/18/2023 fire at the Arrive Apartments in Silver Spring MD.

The apartment complex in which Melanie lived did not have an up-to-current-code sprinkler and alarm sys-  
tem. The complex hallways did not have a smoke detector.

High rise apartments must have modern means of effectively alerting residents to danger, mitigating the  
damage, and stopping the fire as close to the source as possible. Montgomery County has had other high-rise  
fires in older buildings without modern systems.

It is our duty to make the buildings in our community as safe as possible.

I urge you to report favorably on SBO970.

Thank you for making our lives better,  
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