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February 3, 2014

Dear Chairman and Ranking members of the housing committee,

I am here to testify today with respect to bill 10398 proposed by Senator Kane and Senator Crisco. The reason I am here is that on January 21st 2012 my 21 year old daughter Eva Block along with Kevin Johnson of New Canaan, CT and Kerry Fitzsimons of Commack, NY lost their lives in a house fire in Poughkeepsie NY while attending Marist College. As a parent you think your children are safe while at college, but I was naïve went it came to fire protection such as sprinkler systems in the residence.

Since then one of the Fitzsimons family started The Kerry Rose Foundation and on August 5th 2014 Gov. Cuomo signed into law a bill (S5212A, A7641A) to strengthen precautions against residential fires, requiring written and bolded notice to prospective tenants of whether or not a particular home has a fire sprinkler system. Additionally, Governor Cuomo signed legislation (A7916A, S4610A) that requires builders of certain family housing to provide buyers with information on the installation and maintenance of automatic sprinkler systems.

There reason I am here is to support the proposal of bill 10398 CONCERNING THE DISCLOSURE OF AN OPERATIVE SPRINKLER SYSTEM IN ANY DWELLING UNIT.

This bill would require landlords to notify tenants as to the existence or nonexistence of an operative sprinkler system in the dwelling unit.

This bill would help raise awareness for families and individuals with respect to fire safety and would help prevent what happened to my daughter and the other two young adults in the future.

Thank you for your time.

Jeff Block