



July 10, 2018

Public Hearing Testimony - Bill 23-18, Fire Safety – Carbon Monoxide Alarm

Council President Riemer and members of the Council, thank you for your time this afternoon.

My name is Tom Daley, and I come to you today as President of the Greater Capital Area Association of REALTORS® (“GCAAR”) – the voice of Montgomery County and the District of Columbia’s more than 10,000 REALTORS®, property managers, title attorneys, and other real estate professionals.

On behalf of GCAAR, I ask that you support Bill 23-18, Fire Safety – Carbon Monoxide Alarm.

Over the last year Montgomery County has seen an alarming number of deaths due to carbon monoxide poisoning. After these tragic incidents, Councilmember Rice approached our organization with an idea to introduce legislation requiring carbon monoxide detectors in single family homes. We gladly accepted his invitation to work with him on this important safety measure.

We have worked with our members to ensure this bill aligns with current industry practices and will make our County residents will be safer. Bill 23-18 is based on the best practices in similar jurisdictions like the District of Columbia, and features an effective date of almost a year after passage that will allow a grace period for residents to comply. We would urge the County to do an educational push, similar to the statewide change in fire alarm requirements, and stand ready to work with you on this effort.

Thank you for your consideration of our Association’s perspective, and we look forward to your support of this important legislation.