

Chair Prozanski, Vice-Chair Thatcher, and Members of the Committee,

Re: Senate Bill 470 Would Benefit from Some Clarification

As introduced, SB 470 prohibits a transient lodging provider or a transient lodging intermediary from permitting *any person* to make an audio or video recording in certain portions of lodging. There is no exception for audio or video recordings made by tenants or their guests. Under a strict interpretation of the bill, providers and intermediaries would be required to prohibit tenants from engaging in audio or video recordings within the private portions of the lodging they permissibly occupy. This would impose an unreasonable restriction on tenants and invited guests, who may wish to record activities such as family events or matters such as the condition or features of the lodging.

Although this may seem like a superficial issue to some, legislation that affects the ability of persons to engage in freedom of expression warrants careful consideration of its scope. It is recommended that the committee amend SB 470 by making clear that audio and video recordings by tenants and invited guests are permissible. It would be even better if the amendment further stated that providers and intermediaries cannot prohibit such recordings.

Thank you.

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