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"Miya's Law" Becomes Law in Florida

TALLAHASSEE – **SB 898**, known as "Miya's Law," sponsored by **Representative Robin Bartleman (D-Weston)** and **Senator Linda Stewart (D-Orlando)**, was signed into law by the Governor. Named in honor of **Miya Marcano**, a graduate of Flannigan High School in Pembroke Pines who was <u>tragically killed by a maintenance worker</u> who used his master key to enter her apartment, the law makes changes to Florida's Residential Landlord and Tenant Act as well as public lodging establishment laws in an effort to provide safety and security to apartment tenants.

"As a mother of a college student, the loss of Miya is incomprehensible," said **Representative Bartleman.** "I am grateful for Miya's mother and father's courage and strength. In the wake of their personal tragedy, they were committed to ensuring that this never happens to another family. Although this legislation will not bring Miya back, it will help save lives and bring a greater sense of security to college students moving into their first apartment, seniors residing in apartment communities, and all the 2 million renters in Florida. I am also grateful for my colleagues in the House who worked with me to ensure the unanimous passage of this bill, Senator Stewart, Representative Plakon and to Governor DeSantis, for signing this common-sense legislation into law."

The law directs landlords of apartments to require that all employees undergo a background screening, reinforces rules on an employee's or landlord's access to individual units, increases the required notice before entry of a unit to 24 hours, and requires apartments to maintain a key log monitoring the issuance and return of all keys granting access to each unit. While the focus of the law is tenant safety, it includes a provision prohibiting hourly rentals of a public lodging establishments to discourage sex trafficking.