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Chair, Charles, St. Mary's and Calvert  
Counties' Senate Delegation

**THE SENATE OF MARYLAND**  
**ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401**

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January 29, 2024


**Testimony of Senator Arthur Ellis in Support of Senate Bill 105: Burial Sites of Enslaved Persons -  
Protection and Access (Emancipation for the Maryland Deceased Enslaved Act)**

Dear Chair Smith, Vice Chair Waldsreicher and Members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee:

Senate Bill 105 requires an owner of land that encompasses any part of a former plantation to identify and allow visitation to certain burial sites of enslaved persons, under certain circumstances; prohibits the construction of any structure on certain burial sites; establishes the Office of Burial Sites of the Maryland Enslaved; and requires, beginning in fiscal year 2026, the Governor to include in the annual budget bill an appropriation of \$2,500,000 for the Office.

I urge your favorable report on Senate Bill 105.

Yours in Service,

  
Arthur Ellis – District 28