My name is Rachel Ordan. I was born and raised in Montgomery County right around the corner from Moses African Cemetery, but I didn't know that until about a year ago. I went to Whitman High School nearby and would frequent the area to get a bagel or ice cream, yet I never knew that I was standing on desecrated burial grounds. This is wrong, this is shameful, and this must change.

I was horrified to learn last summer that this sacred ground was being torn apart by construction crews to build storage units. More facilities for affluent, predominantly White Bethesda residents to store their extra shit, in disregard to the Black lives buried in this ground. I am ashamed that it took 22 years for me to learn about the history of a place so close to my own home. I am ashamed to have grown up amongst such personal privilege and yet such public desecration. I am testifying to urge you to pass the following bill, ONLY with the following amendments, as it is the very least you can do to honor Black lives, in life and in death.

- This bill **must** recognize and uphold the fact that African-Americans have the right to the remains of their family and ancestors.
- This bill must address this historic injustice. Descendant communities must be empowered to determine the disposition of their ancestors and their artifacts.
- This Bill must create accountability - civil and criminal penalties - for the endemic racist destruction of historic Black burial grounds, and of the bioarchaeology that tells the story of who the interred communities were, what crimes were committed against them, and how they resisted systemic racism and terrorism for centuries.
- Many of the organizations named in this Bill have facilitated and *supported* the desecration of Moses Cemetery. They must be excluded from the Bill, their decision-making powers given to descendent communities. The time for accountability and respect for Black preservation of African-American Cemeteries is now.

Black Lives Matter. Black history matters. Thank you for your time.