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January 21, 2020

The Honorable Delores G. Kelley  
Chair, Senate Finance Committee  
3 East Miller Senate Office Building  
11 Bladen Street  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

**Re: Senate Bill 192 – Cemeteries – Perpetual Care – Distribution From Perpetual Care Trust Fund**

Dear Chair Kelley:

I am writing on behalf of the Maryland Cemetery and Cremation Association (“Association”) in Support of Senate Bill 192.

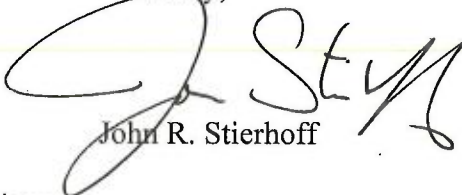
Founded in 1916, the Maryland Cemetery and Cremation Association represents the shared interests and concerns of professionals across the spectrum of Maryland’s “death care” industries.

The Association strongly supports allowing a cemetery the option to select an alternative method for distributions from a perpetual care trust fund. The proposal provides access to a previously unavailable source of funding for perpetual care, critical for the long term protection and maintenance of a cemetery. The bill also ensures that the Office of Cemetery Oversight maintains the authority to limit or prohibit fund balance distribution based on its review.

The legislation incorporates appropriate safeguards to protect members of the public and will allow cemeteries to budget and plan for future finance decisions.

The Maryland Cemetery and Cremation Association respectfully requests the Senate Finance Committee to Support Senate Bill 192.

Sincerely,



John R. Stierhoff

cc: Members, Senate Finance Committee