

HB760/SB351 - Affordable Wills, Life, and Estate Planning for Seniors (FAV)



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Dear Maryland General Assembly:

I write in support of the above-captioned bill above. My name is Steven Planzer and I am a private attorney on the Eastern Shore. I have been volunteering my time with Mid-Shore Pro Bono since September of 2022. I prepare wills, powers of attorney, and advanced healthcare directives for those with low income.

I can attest to the fact that the elderly are in need of these affordable services. In fact, I recently met with several elderly clients who needed their wills updated. All of them came in to see me with concern on their faces. One of them – let's call her Janice – told me her previous will was improperly done and the funeral instructions were incorrect. I told her that I would draft up a new will and then she can execute it at her next appointment. When she left, her attitude had changed from concerned to relieved.

Another client – let's call her Susan – was an eight-five year old woman. She was alert and spirited. She wanted her will be redone and to make sure that her grown children received in her estate when she passes. We joked with each other throughout our discussions, and it was clear that her experience made her feel valued. She left that appointment with a smile on her face.

It is clear from these anecdotal experiences, that this bill will do real good for the senior community. The monies given by this bill will allow seniors to talk to advocates about their plans and it will allow them to have a better confidence in the control of their wishes.

I thank you for your kind attention to this matter. If you have any concerns or questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Steven C. Planzer, Esq.