

Written Testimony for Senate Bill 647 and House Bill 828
Abandoned Cemeteries Fund – Establishment and Income Tax Checkoff

Dear Senator Beidle, Senator Klausmeier, Senator Ellis and the entire Finance Committee,

Please accept the below as my written testimony in favor of with amendments SB0647 and HB0828.

While I am in favor of having a fund for cemeteries as it is very much needed, the current word Abandoned is excluding many of those cemeteries that actually need the help that this Fund can and will provide.

As an African American myself, I realize the importance of inclusion. Hence, I would like to know if the fund name can be changed to either the **Cemetery Fund or the Abandoned and Neglected Cemetery Fund**. As it stands right now if this legislation passes it would not benefit many cemeteries that actually need tons of help. Because many are neglected but property owners are either known or easily identifiable. (Via SDAT or a title search, etc.)

Including those that are neglected would make this a more inclusive effort that could benefit more cemeteries that really need help. The definition and terminology to be added for this to be more inclusive is as follows: **Neglected meaning : suffering a lack of proper care. Not receiving proper attention; disregarded.**

Feel free to contact me or David Zinner who is a colleague that sits on the Maryland States Advisor Council on Cemetery Operations with any Questions or concerns, our contact information is below. Thanks in advance for your time and consideration. We hope you will accept this amendment.

Sincerely,

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