

Testimony for Maryland House of Delegates
February 26, 2024

**HB0969: Death Certificates - Cause or Manner of Death Determinations - Requirements
After Change or Correction.**

In Favor

Caucus of African American Leaders
Annapolis, Maryland
The Honorable Carl O. Snowden, Convener

The leadership of the statewide Caucus of African American Leaders urges you to pass HB0969 in its entirety.

The purpose of CAAL is to fight for the human rights of African-Americans and to create a just society. CAAL believes in the principle that the rights of women, labor, LGBTQ, environmentalist, and all marginalized groups must be both respected and protected.

With the passing of HB0969, FOR the purpose of requiring a law enforcement agency or related department in response to the medical examiner or the Secretary of Health changing or correcting the cause or manner of death recorded on the death certificate of a deceased individual in accordance with a provision of law, and allow for the continued closing of ambiguities.

With the passing of this bill, families will not have to face the same battle and stonewalling that Ms. Morris and her family have had to face. As an organization founded in Anne Arundel county, we are very familiar with the Katherine Morris case and believe that this bill is essential in preventing issues like this in the future. No family should endure the agony that families such as Katherine Morris have due to technicalities within the legal system.

I urge you to pass HB0969, *The Katherine Morris Death Reclassification Act*, honoring the story of Katherine Sarah Morris and her mother's journey for justice, giving hope to families who have experienced the same kind of injustice and preventing stories like this from happening again.



