

March 7, 2025

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee,

I am both a caregiver for my grandmother and an Associate Scientist in the Department of Health, Behavior, and Society at Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health. My research focuses on how home- and community-based supports can address the cultural needs of African American and Hispanic caregivers for people living with dementia. Specifically, I study the impact of adult day services on the well-being of caregivers, examining both physiological and psychosocial stressors. This research highlights how these services provide critical relief to caregivers while improving the quality of care for older adults. Another key area of my work is implementing culturally tailored interventions to reduce caregiver stress and improve access to supportive services.

I also serve on the Leadership Core/Health Equity Task Force of the Public Health Center of Excellence in Dementia Caregiving and the Research Committee of the National Adult Day Services Association. Through these roles, I contribute to national efforts to advance equitable caregiving policies and ensure that diverse communities receive the support they need. My academic training includes a Dual-title PhD in Gerontology and Health Promotion from Purdue University and postdoctoral training at Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health.

I strongly support **SB1029 - Estates and Trusts - Interpretation of Wills - Extrinsic Evidence of Intent (Granny's Law)** and urge the Judicial Proceedings Committee to do the same. This bill provides necessary protections for caregivers, particularly minority women, who often serve as the backbone of care within families. It is a critical step toward ensuring fairness in estate and trust matters, addressing historical disparities, and recognizing the invaluable role caregivers play in our society.

As both a caregiver and a researcher dedicated to studying the challenges caregivers face, I see **SB1029** as a necessary and logical step to promote justice and stability for Maryland families. I respectfully ask for the committee's **full favorable support** of this legislation. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lauren J. Parker', with a stylized, cursive script.

Lauren J. Parker, PhD, MPH,
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