



ASALH

ASSOCIATION FOR THE STUDY OF
AFRICAN AMERICAN LIFE AND HISTORY, INC.

Friday, March 7, 2025

Dear Chair, Vice Chair and Committee Members of judicial proceedings,

My name is Karsonya Wise Whitehead, and I am the president of the Association for the Study for African American Life and History (ASALH). Established on September 9, 1915, by Dr. Carter G. Woodson, ASALH is the cornerstone of the work of Woodson and as the founders and keepers of Black History Month, we carry forth his work and his legacy. We also take a special interest in ensuring that the teaching of Black History continues to be centered and uplifted.

I write today on behalf of ASALH member Jennifer Johnson to support her work to pass SB1029 Granny's Law, which is designed to both honor her grandmother and any anyone else's loved one "whose will and/or estate was or unfortunately is currently being grossly misinterpreted by the orphan courts in Maryland."

I urge the body to take up this important Bill and move it along toward ratification.

With gratitude,

Karsonya Wise Whitehead, PhD

The Association for the Study of African American Life and History
301 Rhode Island Avenue, NW, Suite 1508
Washington, DC 20001

cc.

Sylvia Cyrus, Executive Director, ASALH

David Walton, National Secretary, ASALH

Jennifer Johnson, Founder Friends of St Peter's Cemetery

SB1029 Granny's Law

This bill seeks to CORRECT the following:

- Historical Wrongs of Health-related Charities not supporting Maryland State Policy of working to eradicate Health Disparities.
- Historical wrongs of the Orphans Courts ignoring people's wills and essentially allowing lawyers to make large profits off of deceased people's estates.
- Historical wrongs of the Orphans court overriding the descendant's family's and trusted personal representatives.
- Historical wrongs imposed on Caregivers. Caregivers are most often times the Power of Attorney and then the Personal Representative. Caregivers' rights and respect are often times ignored. This bill seeks to give the power and authority back to the person who has done most if not all of the work to help the decedent in life and in death.
- This bill will help honor my Granny (Jennifer Johnson) and anyone else's loved one whose will and/or estate was or unfortunately is currently being grossly misinterpreted by the orphan courts in Maryland.