

March 11, 2025

Judicial Proceedings Committee

Vote: Fav Bill Number: SB 1029 Granny's Law

Dr. Paula Langford

4219 Red Haven Road Pikesville, Maryland 21208

healbalt@gmail.com

Good afternoon, Chair and Members of the Committee,

My name is Dr. Paula S. Langford, and I strongly support Granny's Law (SB1029)—a necessary step to ensure dona or funds meant to address health disparities are used for their intended purpose.

For too long, we have witnessed systemic failures in Maryland, from substandard nursing home care to a lack of access to affordable medication, cancer research inequities, and the underfunding of prevention awareness programs. Our most vulnerable—our elders, children in foster care, and families struggling with healthcare costs—continue to suffer while charitable funds are mismanaged.

Beyond healthcare disparities, we must also acknowledge the historical wrongs of the Orphans' Court overriding the wishes of descendants' families and trusted personal representatives. Time and again, we have seen these courts ignore legally binding wills, allowing attorneys and institutions to profit off the estates of deceased individuals rather than honoring their final wishes. This injustice compounds generational wealth disparities, disproportionately affecting Black and Brown families and stripping communities of the resources meant for them.

We must break this cycle. Granny's Law demands transparency, accountability, and the redirection of funds toward culturally appropriate, community-based programs for us. We cannot allow legal loopholes and institutional neglect to continue exploiting our elders in life and in death. I urge you to pass Granny's Law to protect our communities, honor our ancestors, and ensure a just future for all Marylanders.

Thank you.

Dr. Paula Langford, LICSW

The Healing Institute Global

Office: 410-913-9188

Healing the world one brain at a time!