

DISENTERMENT – Testimony of Jesse Bennett before the Judicial Proceedings and Finance Committee – February 12, 2025 in support of SB 624

Dear Chairperson and Members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee,

My name is Jesse Bennett, and I am the Volunteer Research Coordinator for the historic 153-year-old Mount Auburn Cemetery, located in the Westport/Mount Winans area of Baltimore City, where over 65,000 burials have been identified. I am a member of the Maryland Cemetery Legislative Advocates.

Although there has been very few disinterment on record for our cemetery over the past twenty-five years, I am here to support SB 616 and its effort to clarify the process how.

The monitoring by the Office of Cemetery Operations would reduce the number of complaints received and provide the State's Attorney with the ability to refer people to the office of OCO. Then disinterment, reinterment, and/or relocation records shall be retained by OCO, and accessible.

Please support SB 624.