

SENATE BILL 1029 ESTATES AND TRUSTS – INTERPRETATION OF WILLS – EVIDENCE OF INTENT (GRANNY’S LAW)

TESTIMONY BEFORE THE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE IN SUPPORT OF THE PROPOSED LEGISLATION

My name is Jesse Bennett, I am a resident of Randallstown, Baltimore County, Maryland and I am in full support of this proposed legislation. I am a Volunteer Research Coordinator for the Mount Auburn Cemetery located in the Westport community in Southwest Baltimore City, and I am member of the Maryland Cemetery Legislative Advocates.

In my personal and advocacy positions, this legislation attempts to give an option to persons who administer estates of deceased family members other properly identified designees, a opportunity to give testimony to the deceased’s wishes.

Every deceased person’s intentions, when clearly written, should not become objects of judges and lawyer’s reinterpretation. We have all heard stories of how a will can be misinterpreted, mismanaged, and actually stolen by court appointed attorney’s who are charged with resolving estates.

The tragic story of how the Johnson Family’s estate was abused, and how their request to intervene in their deceased family member desires were denied, causing heartbreak, stress, economic loss because of legal defense fees as they simply tried to carry out the will of their loved one.

Many families who go through Probate to settle their loved one’s estates do not have the economic status to pursue legal remedies to contest inequities during the process.

I believe the safeguards in Senate Bill 1029 better known as Granny’s Law, will improve the process for all Maryland citizens going forward.

Please lend your support and vote favorably on Senate Bill 1029.

Thank you for your time today.