

SB 616 Written Testimony

Dear Chairperson and members of the Judicial Proceeding and Finance Office

My name is Elinor Thompson, Genealogist Historian, Church and Cemetery Preservationist, Co- Chair of the Ancestral Remains Commmitte with the Maryland Commission on African American History and Culture (AACO) and I helped to write and develop the Cemetery Report along with MHT.

I have been documenting and preserving cemeteries for more than fifty years. While many people can only trace back thier families beyond two generations. I have documented my family back to the late 1400's on one line and another back to the late 1790's.

It is my duty and honor the people who have paved the way for all of our future generations. By respecting, preserving, protecting documenting thier eternal resting places. St. Peters Cemetery and many other cemeteries has historical signifance not only to our communities but through history and cultural heritage and is a sacred place to honor those who paved the way for the forth coming generations. Descecration of any cemetery should be punishable by the full extent of the law, to those who delibratley distrub the places that people slumber in thier eternal graves.

Please support Crimanal Law Human,pet and cemeteries SB616

Thank-you in advance for your consideration

Elinor Thompson

Genealogist, Historian, Church and Cemetery Preservationist and Maryland Commissioner on African American History and Culture