

## HOUSE BILL 0868 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 in Westport, Baltimore City, and a member of the Maryland Cemetery Legislative Advocates.

In my personal and advocacy positions, this legislation attempts to give persons who administer estates of deceased family members or others, dispose of their property with more control of the deceased wishes.

Deceased persons intentions when clearly written, should not become objects of judges and lawyer’s reinterpretation. We have all heard stories of how wills are reinterpreted, mismanaged, and actually stolen by some involved in resolving estates.

The tragic story of how the Johnson Family estate was abused and how their request to intervene in their deceased family member were denied, causing heartbreak, stress, economic loss via legal 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 House Bill 686 better known as Granny’s Law, will improve the process for all Maryland citizens going forward.

Thank you for your time today, please lend your support and vote favorably on House Bill 686.

