

To: Maryland House Economic Matters Committee

From Meritage Jewelers

Re: Testimony In Support of HB 1191

Date: March 9th 2026

Chair, Vice Chair, and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify.

My name is Mark Motes, and I am the CEO and Owner of Meritage Jewelers in Timonium. We are a local jewelry store that primarily focuses on selling fine jewelry, engagement rings, and making repairs.

Over the past several years, we have hosted a number of short-term estate buying events in partnership with a professional jewelry buyback company. These events allow customers to bring in inherited or unused jewelry, coins, and other valuables to have them evaluated and, if they choose, sold.

From our perspective as a retailer, these events have been extremely positive. They bring new people into our store, reconnect us with existing customers, and often lead to additional retail sales when customers decide to trade older pieces for something new. Just as importantly, these companies specialize in evaluating estate jewelry, which helps ensure customers receive accurate valuations.

I also want to note that Kuhns Jewelers in Salisbury has hosted similar events and experienced the same benefits. They would have liked to be here today to testify as well, but were unfortunately unable to attend.

From a jeweler's perspective, these events have been good for our business, good for our customers, and good for local retail.

For those reasons, I respectfully support HB 1191 and ask for a favorable report.

Thank you!