



Date: January 27, 2026

To: Senate Judiciary Proceedings Committee

From: Elizabeth Price

Re: Senate Bill 250 – Estates – Maryland Uniform Simultaneous Death Act

I am writing to express my strong support for SB250 which will conform the Maryland Uniform Simultaneous Death Act with the Uniform Simultaneous Death Act (or USDA).


In February 2025, my best friend's father and his wife were both killed in a house fire in Annapolis. Although the details are still in question, my friend's father was pronounced dead at the scene, and his wife was transported by ambulance and pronounced dead 27 minutes later. No will was found in the burned out remains of their house.

At the time of their deaths, had this legislation been in effect, the path forward would have been clear. From a legal perspective, any difference in their times of death would be inconsequential because each would have been considered to have predeceased the other. Instead, in the absence of conformity with the USDA, the disposition of their estates is unnecessarily ambiguous. Did his estate pass to her during the few minutes she may have outlived him and then to her heirs when she passed? Or, is the intent of the Maryland Uniform Simultaneous Death Act to ensure equitable disposition of estates?

Due to this lack of clarity, my friend and her siblings have had to engage in costly and time-consuming legal action in the hope that they will be able to retain what would have been unequivocally theirs had Maryland already conformed with the USDA.

I can't fix this stressful situation for my friend, but by supporting SB250, you can prevent a similar situation happening to another family in the future.

Thank you for your attention and consideration.



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