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Judiciary Committee
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Granny's Law
Vote: Fav
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Written and Oral Testimony In Support of Granny's Law SB0190

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Dr. Paula S. Langford

My name is Dr. Paula S. Langford, and I strongly support Granny's Law—a necessary and long-overdue step to ensure that donor funds intended to address health disparities are used for their stated purpose.

For far too long in Maryland, we have witnessed systemic failures across our health and legal systems: substandard nursing home care, lack of access to affordable and preventive medical services, inequities in cancer research and treatment, and chronic underfunding of prevention and awareness programs. Our most vulnerable—our elders, children in foster care, and families struggling under the weight of healthcare costs—continue to suffer while charitable funds are mismanaged or diverted from their original intent.

Granny's Law aims to alleviate disparities in health outcomes across racial groups. It is about accountability—ensuring that charitable gifts reach the communities they were meant to serve.

But this issue does not stop at healthcare.

We must also acknowledge long-standing injustices within the Orphans' Court system, where the clearly stated wishes of deceased individuals and their families are too often overridden. Legally binding wills are ignored, personal representatives are dismissed, and estates are redirected in ways that benefit attorneys and insurance companies rather than honoring the decedent's intent. These practices deepen wealth disparities and disproportionately harm Black and Brown families—stripping communities of generational resources meant to heal, protect, and uplift them.

This is exploitation in life and in death.

Granny's Law demands transparency, ethical stewardship, and redirection of funds toward culturally responsive, community-based programs that improve health outcomes. It affirms that honoring donor intent is not optional; it is a moral and legal obligation.

Those who oppose this law are not preserving stability; they are preserving systems that have historically failed Maryland's most vulnerable residents.

We must break this cycle.

I urge you to pass Granny's Law to protect our elders, uphold justice, honor the legacy of those who came before us, and ensure a healthier, more equitable future for all Marylanders.

Thank you.