

**Dear Members of the Judiciary Committee,**

I respectfully request your committee's full passage of **HB0375, Estates and Trusts – Interpretation of Wills – Evidence of Intent (Granny's Law)**.

I've watched how Jennifer and her family have struggled with their estate in Maryland over the past few years. I personally experienced a difficult and costly estate process in South Carolina while handling my father's affairs. His estate required the involvement of at least three different attorneys before it could be closed. For much of the upfront work, I completed the required documentation and submitted it to the attorney for processing and uploading; however, I was still billed for the hours spent on the case, even though the work itself had already been completed. This included the inventory and appraisal, proposal for distribution, and accounting.

Any additional time required would have been entirely at my expense. During an already emotional period, the process felt unnecessarily complex and costly. Although the will and testament stated that I could sell property if needed, I was advised that I would still need to obtain a judge's approval, which would further extend the process and increase legal costs.

I wish the estate process were more straightforward and flexible for heirs to navigate, providing clarity and peace of mind rather than added stress and financial burden. In cases where litigation may be required, attorneys should be encouraged to pursue more efficient and practical approaches, rather than allowing billable hours to consume a significant portion of the estate itself.

I respectfully urge you to consider the real-life impact these situations have on families and heirs, and to support legislation that better reflects a decedent's intent while reducing unnecessary legal obstacles and expenses. If this house bill is approved, I would like to benchmark to help families in South Carolina who are losing generational properties due to unsustainable systems built into the current system.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Tamika Yeadon