

HB0375 Estates and Trusts-Interpretation of Wills-Evidence of Intent (Granny's Law)

Dr. Marie-Therese Oyalowo (Professor, Board Certified Oncology Pharmacist, FNAP, RN)

30920 College Backbone Road
Princess Anne, 21853
moyalowo@umes.edu
410-621-3045

Written Testimony for the Maryland State Legislators
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Dear Delegate Stinnett & Committee Members,

I am pleased to submit testimony in support of Senate Bill 0190, also known as "Granny's Law". I will be specifically addressing the area of health disparities among Blacks as observed in my practice. I have been a practicing pharmacist for over 40 years, and Board-Certified as an oncology pharmacist for more than 20 years. Prior to initiating my career in pharmacy, I practiced as a Registered Nurse.

Cancer is the second leading cause of death (after cardiovascular disease) nationally and globally. While there are several publications on disparities in cancer care , a few examples are presented here on the four most prevalent solid tumors in the United States:

- Mortality rates for all cancers combined between 2018-2022 was higher in both Non-Hispanic Black males and females than their Non-Hispanic White counterparts
<https://seer.cancer.gov/statfacts/html/all.html>
- In breast cancer, while the incidence of new diagnoses was higher in Non-Hispanic Whites than Blacks (139 vs 129.3 per 100,00, respectively), mortality rate was higher in the Non-Hispanic Black population (26.8/100,000) compared to 19.4/100,000 in Non-Hispanic White females
<https://seer.cancer.gov/statfacts/html/breast.html>
- In colorectal cancer, the incidence of new cases per 100,000 as well as the mortality rates are higher in both black males and females than their white counterparts
<https://seer.cancer.gov/statfacts/html/colorect.html>
- Prostate cancer provides a similar pattern of new cases and mortality, as in the aforementioned cancers, with higher incidence and mortality rates in black males.
<https://seer.cancer.gov/statfacts/html/prost.html>
- In lung cancer, the incidence of new cases and mortality are higher in black males but lower in black females <https://seer.cancer.gov/statfacts/html/lungb.html>

The area of research has also documented significant disparities in clinical trials where the population of black patients is often minimal to none in the studies. A recent study by Andre et al. (NEJM, 2024) examined novel therapies in 303 patients with colorectal cancer.

Unfortunately, there were only 4 black participants in the trial, on a cancer that is more prevalent in the black population.

It should be noted that the causes of disparities in cancer care are multifactorial, with socioeconomic factors, health literacy and access to care among several examples.

I am available to provide additional examples from my practical experience if provided with the opportunity to provide oral testimony.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Marie-Therese Oyalowo

Marie-Therese Oyalowo, PharmD, BCOP, FNAP, RN
Professor & Director of Drug Information Services
University of Maryland Eastern Shore
School of Pharmacy and Health Professions
30920 College Backbone Rd
Princess Anne, MD 21853