



January 25, 2026

The Honorable Members of the Maryland General Assembly
Annapolis, Maryland

Re: Support for Granny's Law – Estates and Trusts: Interpretation of Wills – Evidence of Intent

Dear Members of the Maryland General Assembly,

On behalf of D4 Women in Action, I am writing to express our strong support for Maryland's *Granny's Law* legislation, currently introduced as HB375 in the House and cross-filed with SB190 in the Senate. This legislation strengthens protections for Maryland families by ensuring that the true intent of a deceased loved one—especially elders and vulnerable individuals—is honored and upheld during estate administration.

D4 Women in Action (D4) is a 501(c)(4) social welfare and advocacy organization established in July 2020 by Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., making Delta the first Black Greek-letter organization to create such an entity. Born during the twin crises of the COVID-19 pandemic and a national reckoning on racial injustice, D4 was created to safeguard Delta's tax-exempt status and to respond boldly to political attacks on Black communities.

As an independent but Delta-affiliated organization, D4 advances the sorority's long-standing commitment to action and social change. We champion policy advocacy, support legislative priorities, and uplift candidates aligned with Delta's values. Our mission is to amplify the political power of Black women by increasing their representation and influence in public policy, legislation, and elected office. We are building a strong pipeline of Black women leaders who are shaping the political landscape and strengthening civic life.

Granny's Law aligns with our mission because it protects the rights, dignity, and wishes of elders—particularly those who rely on caregivers, family members, and trusted representatives to manage their affairs. The legislation authorizes personal representatives, under specific circumstances, to petition the Orphans' Court to interpret a decedent's will in accordance with the decedent's intent, using certain forms of extrinsic evidence. It also establishes a rebuttable presumption regarding intent and provides mechanisms to ensure that legacies are used as the decedent intended.



These protections are especially important for Black families, who disproportionately experience wealth loss across generations due to unclear estate planning, predatory practices, and systemic inequities. By allowing courts to consider additional evidence of a decedent's intent, Granny's Law helps safeguard intergenerational wealth, reduce family conflict, and ensure that elders' wishes are respected—values deeply aligned with D4's commitment to justice, equity, and community stability.

For these reasons, D4 Women in Action proudly supports Granny's Law and urges the Maryland General Assembly to pass this important legislation. We stand ready to work alongside lawmakers, advocates, and community partners to ensure that Maryland families—especially those historically marginalized—are protected and empowered through fair and transparent estate processes.

Thank you for your leadership and for your commitment to strengthening justice and equity for all Marylanders.

Sincerely,

Rhonda Briggins

Rhonda Briggins, President
D4 Women in Action