

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

HB0375

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**Support FAV**

It is my honor to write this letter and share my testimony in support of HB0375, Granny's Law.

Understanding my background and experiences will help to explain why I am in support. From 2008 to 2009, I endured excruciating pain and repeatedly sought answers and relief from my primary care physician. Despite my concerns, I was given a stress test, which came back normal. As my pain worsened, I pleaded for help, but after months without a diagnosis, my doctor handed me a bag of Cymbalta, advising me to start with 30 mg and increase to 60 mg if needed. In medical notes I later obtained, he labeled me as "psychosomatic," dismissing my pain rather than investigating its cause. I was listened to but not truly heard.

Frustrated and feeling unheard, I stopped seeking medical care for over a month—until my condition became unbearable. In May, I found a new primary care physician, and within a week, I was sent to the Hematology Building at Baltimore Washington Medical Center. Shortly after, I was diagnosed with stage 3B Hodgkin's Lymphoma. So

I believe that Jennifer Johnson's grandmother's estate (funds) were bequeathed to directly impact minority health and health disparities. The people who opposed the legislation last year are those that want to uphold historical systemic wrongs that oppress people.

The healthcare system and probate system are antiquated, sometimes grossly impacting minority communities. The probate system is problematic to say the least and has been hurting people for years, and Granny's law changes that systemic wrong.

Here I am, seventeen years later, I now find myself advocating for my parents as they experience cognitive decline. The people they were when they wrote their will are not the same as they are today—life changes perspectives, preferences, and priorities. For instance, my outlook at 42 shifted when I became pregnant at 43, and now, as a parent to a three-year-old, my perspective continues to evolve. While education and resources are essential for informing citizens about wills, understanding the true intent behind a will is just as crucial. We must respect the wishes of the deceased and uphold the

decisions made by the designated power of attorney. Still, I worry—no matter how carefully a will is written, I could one day find myself in Jennifer’s position. I ask for full favorable support for HB0375 Estates and Trusts - Interpretation of Wills - Evidence of Intent (Granny's Law).

Sincerely yours,

*Toye Nelson*

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