

Date: February 11, 2026

To: House Judiciary Committee

From: Mariana Maldjian

Re: House Bill HB0596 – Estates – Maryland Uniform Simultaneous Death Act

I strongly support conforming the Maryland Uniform Simultaneous Death Act to the Uniform Simultaneous Death Act. I'm a former resident of Maryland, and I have personally witnessed the consequences of Maryland's current law and its ambiguity regarding how estates should be treated when deaths are close to, but not entirely, simultaneous.

Many people do not have a will in place, and in situations where remarried spouses die within minutes, hours, or days of one another, it is common sense that each spouse's assets should pass to their respective families. The intent of the Maryland Uniform Simultaneous Death Act is likely in line with that approach, but the law itself is ambiguous. Under current law, the family of the spouse who happened to die first may need to engage in legal action to retain their claim to their loved one's estate.

Maryland conforming with the Uniform Simultaneous Death Act would result in a fairer distribution of property. It would prevent the possibility that disposition of an estate could be based on which spouse survived by moments. Thank you for your time and consideration of this important change.

