

## TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF BILL #SB0917

### Transport of a Body After Anatomical Gift - Gift - Prohibition

**Date:** March 5, 2020

**From:** Students at the Johns Hopkins University Schools of Medicine and Public Health

**To:** Chair Delores G. Kelley and Members of the Senate Finance Committee

**Re:** SUPPORT FOR BILL#SB0917

We are students at Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine and Public Health writing in support of SB 0917, which would prohibit charging transportation fees to claim a body.

As medical and public health students, we entered school knowing that we would learn through the generosity of others, including the use of their bodies for us to learn intricate anatomical details. We were prepared to dissect cadavers, however, we were not prepared to learn that we'd be part of a centuries-long Maryland tradition of exploiting the bodies of the less fortunate for the benefit of medical science. Some of the bodies medical students in this state dissect come from individuals who passed away with no one to claim them, and some simply had families who could not afford to claim them from the state. These individuals are low-income, marginalized, and sometimes experiencing homelessness.

All bodies are legally required to be transported to a funeral home or the State Anatomy Board within 72 hours of death. This timeline means that bodies may be transported before the family even knows that their family member has passed away. In such a circumstance, being asked to pay for surprising transportation fees can make it difficult or impossible for families to receive and bury their loved one. On such a short time frame, families may not have the opportunity to claim their family member, much less come up with transportation fees. These fees, on top of the already high costs of funeral services, may prevent families from being able to bury their dead. Families throughout Maryland have expressed concern that their lack of funds may cause their loved one to become property of the state.<sup>[i],[ii],[iii]</sup>

We believe that all Marylanders should be given the opportunity to bury their loved ones, and that transportation fees should not prohibit family members from acquiring the body. Therefore, we ask you to support SB0197.

Respectfully submitted,

Laura Pugh, School of Medicine  
Minnie Jang, School of Medicine  
Christine Gao, School of Medicine  
Ahmed Eltahir, School of Medicine  
Benjamin Koleske, School of Medicine  
Nancy Zhou, School of Medicine  
Jake Ruddy, School of Medicine  
Ruoxi Yu, School of Medicine  
Alex Norton, School of Medicine  
Vorada Sakulsaenggrapha , School of Medicine  
Julia Wainger, School of Medicine  
Darien Colson-Fearon, School of Medicine  
Erica Stern, School of Medicine  
Zoe Cosner, School of Medicine  
Pauline Huynh, School of Medicine  
Ellie Burton, School of Medicine  
Denis Routkevitch, School of Medicine  
Sarah Frey, School of Medicine  
Insia Zufer, School of Medicine  
Christina Pickering, School of Medicine  
Kevin Biju, School of Medicine  
Jane Long, School of Medicine  
Maureen Rakovec, School of Medicine  
Mohamed Mohamed, School of Medicine  
Rumsha Salman, School of Medicine  
Samuel Jordan, School of Medicine  
Dylan Hardenbergh, School of Medicine  
Anna Weimer, School of Medicine  
Edwina Kisanga, School of Medicine

Jennifer Qin, School of Medicine  
Alexander A Girgis, School of Medicine  
Tasha Davilmar, School of Medicine  
Alyssa Kretz, School of Medicine  
Kwame Romero-Sackey, School of Medicine  
Sajya Singh, School of Medicine  
Malcolm Matheson, School of Medicine  
Thomas Le, School of Medicine  
Adaobi Ugochukwu, School of Medicine  
Vismaya Bachu, School of Medicine  
Amanda Jones, School of Medicine  
Christina Kwon, School of Medicine  
Grant Wilson, School of Medicine  
Danielle Amundsen, School of Medicine  
Macy Early, School of Medicine  
Matthew Rabinowitz, School of Medicine  
Richard Ng, School of Medicine  
Carlos A. Perez-Heydrich, School of Medicine  
Allison Wallingford, School of Medicine  
Tiffany Brocke, School of Medicine  
Anthony Salerno, School of Medicine  
Elizabeth Liu, School of Medicine  
Jack Gatti, School of Medicine  
Aleksandra Popovic, School of Medicine  
Yilin Yang, School of Medicine  
Priya Singh, School of Medicine  
Rachel Strodel, School of Medicine  
Bhavitha Kotha, School of Medicine  
Matthew A. Crane, School of Medicine

Scarlett Guo, School of Medicine  
Priyal Gandhi, School of Medicine  
Waqas Haque, School of Public Health  
Reillie Acks, School of Public Health  
Diefei Chen, School of Public Health  
Ayobami Akenroye, School of Medicine  
Jessica Handy, School of Public Health  
Jenny Chen, School of Medicine  
Sarah Attreed, School of Public Health  
Mary Odell, School of Public Health  
Kulsoom Durrani, School of Public Health  
Aathman Swaminathan, School of Public Health  
Danielle D. Gaskin, School of Public Health  
Norah Crossnohere, School of Public Health  
Cassandra Randolph, School of Public Health  
Melissa L Gentz, School of Public Health  
Benjamin Kussin-Shoptaw, School of Public Health  
Carolyn Johnson, School of Public Health  
Eda Reed, School of Public Health  
Susan E. Kornacki, School of Public Health  
Zachary Hunter Berliner, School of Public Health  
Sara Skelton, School of Public Health  
Joseph Wilson, School of Public Health  
Stephen A Lauer, School of Public Health  
Elizabeth Broadbridge, School of Public Health  
Paula Zaremba, School of Public Health  
Paul Delgado, School of Public Health  
Morgane Mouslim, School of Public Health  
Elizabeth Lulaj, School of Public Health

Gurpreet Kaur, MD, School of Public Health  
Sydney Merritt, School of Public Health  
Lily H Merritt, School of Public Health  
Lena Jewler, School of Public Health  
Niloufer Taber, School of Public Health  
Sharmaine Miller, School of Public Health  
Samuel Beckwith, School of Public Health  
Meredith Schlussek, School of Public Health  
Tiana Sepahopur, School of Public Health  
Apurva Sharma, School of Public Health  
Rohan Panaparambil, School of Medicine  
Rachel Krizek, School of Public Health  
Leah Salama, School of Public Health  
Natasha Kaushal, School of Public Health  
Caitlin Ceryes, School of Public Health  
Zoe Demko, School of Public Health  
Anna Najor, School of Public Health  
Trang Quynh Nguyen, School of Public Health  
Jenny Osman, School of Public Health  
Sarah Hinman, School of Public Health  
Mary Grace Bowering, School of Medicine  
Eva Luderowski, School of Medicine  
Zain Kazi, School of Public Health  
Adaeze Wosu, School of Public Health  
Karina Chavarria, School of Public Health  
Rina, School of Public Health  
Zabecca S. Brinson, School of Public Health  
Alexander Blum, School of Medicine  
Stacy V Lu, School of Public Health

Jaime Marquis, School of Public Health

Rebecca Watsky, School of Medicine

Connie Katsaounis, School of Public Health

Christin Park, School of Medicine

Taylor Church, School of Medicine

[i] Block E. Maryland's unclaimed dead become body donors. MarylandReporter.com. <https://marylandreporter.com/2016/05/25/marylands-unclaimed-dead-become-body-donors/>. Published May 25, 2016. Accessed February 28, 2019.

[ii] Bernstein N. For 22 Unclaimed Bodies in New York, a Grim Path From Death to Burial. The New York Times.

<https://www.nytimes.com/2016/10/28/nyregion/for-22-unclaimed-bodies-in-new-york-a-grim-path-from-death-to-burial.html>. Published October 27, 2016. Accessed February 28, 2019.

[iii] Skidmore S. Portland man's body mistakenly donated to science. Spokesman.com. <http://www.spokesman.com/stories/2007/mar/27/portland-mans-body-mistakenly-donated-to-science/>. Published June 30, 2009. Accessed February 28, 2019.