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January 21, 2020

The Honorable Shane E. Pendergrass
Chair, House Health & Government Operations Committee
241 House Office Building
6 Bladen Street
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

**Re: House Bill 5 – Cemeteries – Perpetual Care – Distribution From Perpetual
Care Trust Fund**

Dear Chair Pendergrass:

I am writing on behalf of the Maryland Cemetery and Cremation Association (“Association”) in Support of House Bill 5.

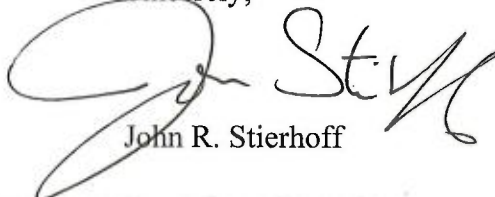
Founded in 1916, the Maryland Cemetery and Cremation Association represents the shared interests and concerns of professionals across the spectrum of Maryland’s “death care” industries.

The Association strongly supports allowing a cemetery the option to select an alternative method for distributions from a perpetual care trust fund. The proposal provides access to a previously unavailable source of funding for perpetual care, critical for the long term protection and maintenance of a cemetery. The bill also ensures that the Office of Cemetery Oversight maintains the authority to limit or prohibit fund balance distribution based on its review.

The legislation incorporates appropriate safeguards to protect members of the public and will allow cemeteries to budget and plan for future finance decisions.

The Maryland Cemetery and Cremation Association respectfully requests the House Health & Government Operations Committee to Support House Bill 5.

Sincerely,



John R. Stierhoff

cc: Members, House Health & Government Operations Committee