

**Testimony for the House Republican Policy Committee**

**Suburban Memorial Garden Cemetery**

**Ronald and Betty Gladfelter**

**September 5, 2018**

Good morning Mr. Chairman and members of the Republican Policy Committee. Thank you for hearing my story.

In 2005, we had about six people die in our family in a twelve-month period of time. As a result, we decided to purchase cemetery lots so that we could plan for the future, and so our children would not have that burden when something happened to us.

On July 8, 2005 we went to Suburban Memorial Garden Cemetery to check out the cemetery. We were pleased with the appearance and peacefulness of the grounds and since we had family that owned land near the cemetery, we talked to a man and woman – Theodore and Arminda Martin – picked out the spots that we liked and discussed payment options. We were given prices totaling \$11,645.00 for the following:

- Memorial - \$1,400.00
- Perpetual Care - \$2,395.00
- Two Concrete Vaults - \$1,850.00
- One Bronze Casket - \$1,850.00
- One Diamond Blue Casket - \$2,250.00
- Interment Fees - \$1,900.00

That same day, we went to the bank and took out the money. We paid the Martin's in full the \$11,645.00. It wasn't until Mother's Day, May 14, 2017 that I learned of the fraudulent acts of Theodore and Arminda. We went to the cemetery to see for ourselves and were heartbroken to see it in dismay.

The crimes of the Martin's have left us feeling angry and disappointed. We are unsure of what will happen to us when we do pass. Our tombstone is already placed with our names on it. But will the rest of the items that we paid for be honored? We do not have the money to repay for our funeral arrangements.

For these reasons we are urging this Committee to do what they can to strengthen Pennsylvania law and prevent this from happening in the future.