

**Gallant Funeral Home**  
10 Elm Street Waterville, ME 04901 • (207) 873-3393

**Testimony in Support**  
**LD 505 – An Act to update the Reimbursement Rates for Transportation Of Deceased Persons by Funeral Homes**

March 15, 2023

Good afternoon Senator Baldacci, Representative Meyer, and members of the Health & Human Services Committee. My name is Craig McInnis. I live in Waterville, and I have been a licensed Funeral Service Practitioner for 5 years. I work at Gallant Funeral Home in Waterville.

I am in support of LD 505 – An Act to update the Reimbursement Rates for Transportation Of Deceased Persons by Funeral Homes because:

I feel that this bill is needed to help offset the amount of money we as a funeral home spend to make these transports on behalf of the Medical Examiner. Over the past year we have seen high increases on the price of vehicles, equipment, insurances and fuel. When we make a transport to the ME's Office on the weekend or after hours they require us to bring a second person to assist us with moving the deceased. This person also needs to be paid, which comes out of the transporting funeral homes budget. At the current rate we as the funeral home are paying out money to transport on the behalf of the Medical Examiner's Office.

An example of how this effects our business is as follows. Under Maine State Law funeral home employees are not allowed to be salaried. We had a call for a transport from China to the ME's Office. Our removal team was on another call in Fairfield at the time and responded to this call. We as a funeral home had to pay both employees to do the removal and go to Augusta. By paying both employees straight time for this removal at the current rate we took a loss doing this transport. Sometimes this loss is made up for if we end up keeping the case. The deceased was from the Portland area and once the ME completed their investigation a funeral home from that area cared for the family.

Thank you for your time today

Respectfully,

Craig McInnis

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