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Testimony in Support

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

March 14, 2023

Good afternoon Senator Baldacci, Representative Meyer, and members of the Health & Human Services Committee. My name is Alissa Dodds and I live in the Greater Portland Area, I have been a licensed Funeral Service Practitioner for seven years.

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

Throughout my work with families there are many questions that arise and one of them that come up recently pertains to the work we do assisting the Maine Medical Examiner's Office. I have found there is conflicting information regarding what the medical examiner's office pays funeral home for the transportation the medical examiner's office requires.

As an example, when someone passes at a home, the police contact the local funeral home to transport a person to the funeral home. Once the person reaches the funeral home the person is required to be moved to the Medical Examiner's Office in Augusta. Per the State website, which I have linked below, it states, "all autopsy expenses, including transport of the body to and from the OCME are borne by the state; there are no charges to the family."

Not only is there more than one transfer occurring, the financial amount given to funeral home do not adequately cover the cost of staff, gas, and a reasonable overhead for organizing both transfers.

Website link: https://www.maine.gov/ag/crime/chief_medical_examiner.shtml

Thank you for your time today

Respectfully,

Alissa Dodds

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