

**Wiles Remembrance Centers
137 Farmington Falls Road
Farmington, ME 04938**

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 Kent Wiles. I live in Farmington and I have been a licensed Funeral Service Practitioner for 30 years, serving the Western Maine Mountains Region from Dixfield to our west, Mercer to our east, Turner to our south and Rangeley, Magalloway Plt., Eustis, and Coburn Gore to our north.

As you can see by our geographic location, we serve the Maine Medical Examiner's office as well as many local, county, and state agencies, sometimes in very remote locations. We also understand that we work with the Medical Examiner's office as a member of a team and we are honored to do that by providing the necessary transportation and assistance in a critical time of need. As we all know labor, fuel, vehicle, and insurance costs have all increased significantly in the past several years. With this in mind, I support LD 505 and ask for your support, as it will help all of Maine Licensed Funeral Homes, recoup a larger portion of their expenses to provide this unique, yet necessary service to the State of Maine in conjunction with the Maine Medical Examiner's Office.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Respectfully,

Kent C. Wiles

President/General Manager

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