

Senator Bailey, Representative Gramlich, committee members, I thank you for the opportunity to speak to you today.

I am Douglas Bibber, a Resident of Arundel ME. I have been a licensed Funeral Service Practitioner for 37 years, have been a longtime member of the Maine Funeral Directors Association, am a past president and most recently have served on the Legal and Legislative Committee for the association, and am honored to serve the communities of Kennebunk, Wells, Alfred and Berwick.

I come before you today to urge you to defeat LD 867.

Maine has had a longstanding, very pro-consumer regulation banning any commissioned sales by funeral directors. I believe the integrity of this regulation should stand as it is and not be struck down simply to benefit the bottom line of Funeral Homes and to fund their preneed operations.

Currently, under Maine Mortuary Trust laws, the funeral home can only serve as the trustee of the funds or insurance policy benefit held within the trust. We do not receive any funds until we have provided the services at the time of the beneficiary's death.

Maine Funeral Homes can create mortuary trust for its families by accepting an existing life insurance policy to fund the mortuary trust. I have yet to have a family coming in to set up a mortuary trust, asking to purchase an insurance policy from me when they do.

This is not a need or service the community is asking for.

I urge this committee to reject LD 867.

Thank you for your time today.

Sincerely,

  
Douglas R. Bibber

[www.BibberFuneral.com](http://www.BibberFuneral.com)

*Please send all correspondence to our Kennebunk Office*

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207-698-1105



47 Oak Street  
Alfred, ME 04002  
207-459-7110