



Date

Address

To the Honorable Members of the ***State*** House Professional Licensure Committee Dear Representatives,

I write to you as the President of the National Home Funeral Alliance (NHFA) and on behalf of NHFA members in ***State***. Our mission is to support and educate the public about the innate rights of families to choose to have a non-commercial, family-directed funeral.

I am asking that, as you rewrite the funeral laws in ***State***, you take great care to preserve the right of families to choose how they wish to care for their loved ones after death.

Having funerals in the home rather than hiring professionals is an American tradition. Families who choose to file their own paperwork, transport to a church or final disposition in a crematory or cemetery, and perform other necessary tasks should be able to continue that tradition unfettered by laws that compel citizens to hire and pay for others to do this for them.

Over the past few generations, Americans have increasingly relinquished their customs of caring for their own to the rapidly expanding funeral industry, distancing families from participating in their own rites of passage in ways that are meaningful.

In recent years, a growing number of Americans have sought to return to traditional customs, where the family washed and laid out the body, dressed it, carried the coffin to the cemetery—customs our great-grandparents would instantly recognize and consider a normal part of family life.

In nine states (CT, IL, IO, IN, LA, NY, MI, NE, NJ), families have lost the right to independent, private control of their affairs when a loved one dies. It is especially unfortunate that, in the difficult time after a death, families should be compelled to engage in an expensive and unnecessary commercial transaction.

While it is likely that a majority of Americans would not choose a home funeral, and would gladly rely on funeral directors, they should retain the **right to choose** how they want to proceed, including choosing a home funeral. We urge you not to add ***State*** to this list, to deliberate with care, and to keep the rights of families in the forefront.

The NHFA is working across the U.S. to call for legislators and policymakers to create funeral laws that empower families to make informed choices regarding compassionate and reasonable care of their deceased without compelling commercial transactions and limiting their choices.

To help you become fully informed on this issue before you take any legislative action, we encourage you to visit our website at www.homefuneralalliance.org. We also have enclosed copies of "*Restoring Families' Rights to Choose*", a position paper co-written by the National Home Funeral alliance and the Funeral Consumers Alliance.

The NHFA is in full support of the actions by ***Name*** advocates in their efforts to keep funeral choices open to all its citizens.

Please feel free to call me anytime at ***Number***. Thank You.

Sincerely,

Your Name

Include other members that reside in your state