



CASCADE
CREMATION & BURIAL

January 27, 2025

TO: Oregon House of Representatives
House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health Care

I would like to indicate my strong support of HB3127 as it relates to the modernization of the vital records process. When an Oregonian dies, virtually nothing can be taken care of without a death certificate. Oregon has lagged behind other states in its vital records systems which has placed undue burden on families and the funeral directors they trust to help them navigate the vital records process. Medical providers who are unwilling or unable to use the electronic system for certifying vital records have, thus far, realized little to no consequence for their actions.

Some history: When Oregon brought the OVERS system online, they did so in a very cumbersome way requiring biometric software to be installed and maintained on computers in order for providers to interact with the system electronically. Having operated funeral homes in California, Washington and Arizona, I found Oregon to be an outlier which GREATLY decreased participation for medical certifiers. To wit, California EDRS rolled out their system in 2010 and had 99% participation from DAY ONE. This was due in large part to their parroting the old system with the new to make it easier for medical certifiers to transition. Contrast that with Oregon who, 10 years after roll-out, had participation rates of medical certifiers at 26%. They have since changed the methodology for certification and authentication which has increased participation, but some are still unwilling. I believe this bill is long overdue and it seems the DHS/OHA has removed many of the barriers that certifiers could blame for lack of participation.

As a funeral director who has chased paper in fossil fuel-powered vehicles for nearly 30 years, I strongly urge you to pass this bill.

Sincerely,



Travis Sandusky
Manager, FSP and Embalmer
Cascade Cremation & Burial