Submitter: Holly A. Houston

On Behalf Of: Columbia Funeral Home

Committee: House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health Care Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3127

Testimony in Support of HB3127 Date: January 27, 2025

To: Members of the House Committee on Behavioral Health and Health Care,

I am writing to express my strong support for HB3127, which seeks to require medical certifiers to complete death certificates electronically and eliminate the option to the existing Drop to Paper forms.

As a funeral director in the state for over 20 years, I was part of the initial roll out of OVERS many years ago, at that time I never thought Doctors would still not be utilizing this system. There is no reason for funeral homes to still be mailing and driving death certificates around this many years later. Other states have rolled out similar systems in less time and have mandated that medical certifiers use the system as well.

Not only do the fuel emissions have a negative effect on our environment, but on occasion these documents get lost in the mail. That means someone's personal information, date of birth, residence, SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER, families names and address are floating around ready for the taking. These are a few of the reasons the electronic system needs to be mandated in Oregon. The largest reason is the extra time this adds to the process, we have families waiting weeks longer to receive these documents because the doctor wont sign electronically. Families that are grieving and struggling with this whole process enough as it is cant even start the process of handling their affairs because they are still waiting on a doctor to sign the death certificate. There is no reason to put this extra burden on a grieving family when we have the tools to make it better, those tools just aren't being utilized.

I urge you to get behind HB3127, help to streamline this process not only for funeral directors but for the families they serve.

Thank you,

Holly A. Houston
Funeral Director/Owner
Columbia Funeral Home