

Submitter: Jim Jackson
On Behalf Of: Bateman Carroll Funeral Home
Committee: House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health Care
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3127

There have been many advances in the death care industry over the years, but none has made a greater impact than creating electronic death certificates by way of OVERS. The only way to improve this system is to have every doctor in the State of Oregon actually take it seriously.

The system allows for a doctor to sign by paper (known as Drop to Paper) which then means that a death certificate is delivered to the doctor for a signature and the funeral home is required to follow up with that office until the doctor completes that death certificate. This process can take several days or weeks for the doctor to complete. Once completed, the funeral home forwards the paper copy to the county where it is checked for legibility and completeness before the death certificates are created.

When a funeral director creates a death certificate in OVERS and has the doctor sign electronically the family is able to receive their death certificates for their loved one within days rather than weeks. Rather than the certificate being handed off several times, the death certificate is completed electronically which also improves legibility and completeness.

Every family that loses a loved one deserves to have a death certificate that is legible and completed in a timely manner. Passing this bill will reinforce the stability of the OVERS system and make it what it was intended to be - vital for the families we serve.