



Senate Bill 872 Testimony

Before the Senate Committee on Judiciary

Good afternoon, Chair Prozanski, Vice-Chair Thatcher and Members of the Committee.

For the record, my name is Chad Dresselhaus and I am the Executive Director of the Oregon Mortuary & Cemetery Board (OMCB).

First to provide some context, the Oregon Mortuary & Cemetery Board (OMCB) has been statutorily designated as a “health professional regulatory board” (HPRB), along with 17 other health related state agencies including the Oregon Medical Board, Oregon State Board of Nursing, Oregon Board of Pharmacy & the Oregon Board of Dentistry – and as such, each HPRB agency has adopted similar strategic objectives including regulatory streamlining, cultivating relationships with internal and external partners, and engaging in outreach to licensees and the public.

It has been determined that compared to other HPRB agencies, our agency’s disciplinary action authority is somewhat limited, which at times has prevented our agency from taking appropriate disciplinary action against licensees and applicants.

Senate Bill 872 is the culmination of a collaborative effort that consisted of a careful and thorough review and analysis of other HPRB agencies’ disciplinary action authority – which became the framework for a significant portion of the proposed amended language in SB 872 – consultation with our agency’s AAG, Board direction, and the Governor’s Office.

The purpose of SB 872 is two-fold: First, to better align our agency’s disciplinary action authority with the other HPRB agencies; and second, to ensure that our agency is provided with the necessary tools to continue fulfilling our mission of protecting Oregonians’ public health, safety, and welfare.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify before you today and I am happy to answer any questions that you may have.