

Submitter: Cristina Nedea
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Health Care
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3127

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee,

My name is Cristina Nedea, and I work in the funeral care profession here in Oregon. I am writing to express my strong support for HB 3127, which would require all physicians in the state to be registered in the Oregon Vital Events Registration System (OVERS).

This bill addresses a critical and often overlooked issue: timely access to death certificates for grieving families. When a physician is not registered in OVERS, we are forced to use a paper-based process that is not only outdated but deeply burdensome. The current workaround involves printing out a death certificate, physically driving it to a physician's office for a wet signature, then returning to pick it up before submitting it to the county. This process can take days or even weeks.

In contrast, when a physician is registered in OVERS and uses the electronic system, we've seen cases where the death certificate is signed and returned on the same day.

The difference in these timelines has a profound impact on the families we serve. Delays in issuing death certificates prevent families from accessing life insurance benefits, closing accounts, or transferring property. In some cases, we've seen a surviving spouse's bank account frozen simply because they were waiting on a physician's physical signature.

Right now, I am working with a family who has been waiting for over three months for a death certificate. One of the main causes of this delay is that the physician is not in the same office as the death certificate, and later the affidavit that was needed to correct an error on the death certificate. Most of the issues surrounding this delay could have been avoided if the physician were registered in OVERS, allowing them to securely access and sign the necessary forms from any office or location.

Other states have already addressed this issue. For a few years, Washington State has required electronic signatures from physicians, and as a result, obtaining death certificates from Washington has become a smooth and efficient process. I want the same for the families I support here in Oregon.

The people who walk through the doors of our funeral home are already facing one of the most difficult moments of their lives. The last thing they should have to deal with

is an avoidable bureaucratic delay.

HB 3127 is a common-sense, compassionate measure that will modernize our system, reduce unnecessary delays, and bring real relief to grieving families. I urge you to support this bill.

Thank you for your time and consideration.