

Measure, Appointment, or Topic: HB3127

Dear Members of the Legislative Assembly,

As a funeral professional and manager of Skyline Memorial Gardens Funeral Home, proudly serving the greater Portland area and the broader Northwest community, I am writing to express my strong and unequivocal support for HB3127 - a bill that mandates physicians certify death certificates electronically through the Oregon Vital Events Registration System (OVERS).

This legislation is vital to improving the efficiency, accuracy, and timeliness of death certificate processing in Oregon. Currently, when a certifying physician is not registered with OVERS, we are forced to initiate a burdensome hybrid process involving a printed death certificate accompanied by a "Dear Doctor" letter outlining instructions for manual completion. This outdated paper-based method requires physical delivery of the certificate to the physician's office and, even under ideal circumstances, is rarely completed within ten business days.

In many cases, these certificates are returned incomplete or with errors, requiring repeated follow-ups and additional delays. As a result, the average turnaround time to provide certified death certificates to grieving families ranges between 14 to 21 days.

These delays carry real and often painful consequences. Families are frequently unable to access critical financial resources - such as bank accounts, retirement funds, or life insurance benefits - because financial institutions require a certified death certificate to release assets. The resulting financial hardship can add significant stress to an already emotionally devastating time.

In contrast, when physicians are registered and utilize OVERS, the process becomes streamlined and secure. Electronic certification ensures that records are validated at the point of signature and

automatically advanced to the appropriate county registrar. This modernized workflow reduces errors, prevents unnecessary delays, and provides families with the documentation they need far more quickly and reliably.

Passing HB3127 would bring Oregon in line with neighboring states like Washington and California, both of which already require electronic certification of death records. This step forward will not only modernize our state's vital records system, but also reduce administrative burdens on medical professionals and - most importantly - support families with greater compassion, dignity, and efficiency.

I respectfully urge you to vote in favor of HB3127. This is more than a procedural improvement - it is a necessary reform that will have a direct and positive impact on the families we serve.

Sincerely,

Daniel Brewer

Funeral Home Manager

Skyline Memorial Gardens Funeral Home

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