

Members of the Senate Health and Human Services Committee,

On behalf of 600+ funeral directors and 250+ funeral establishments, the Minnesota Funeral Directors Association (MFDA) strongly supports Senate File 2611, which authorizes Transfer Care Specialists to perform the removal of a dead human body from the place of death.

Currently, only licensed funeral directors can make removals. Due to the unscheduled nature of death, both workload and workforce shortages of licensed funeral directors can cause delays in removals.

Crafted and considered by the funeral profession over multiple years, input was gathered from MFDA members, non-members, and the Department of Health. Additionally, MFDA worked to provide input on the drafting of a research study conducted by the University of Minnesota Program of Mortuary Science which assessed funeral professionals' attitudes toward policy changes. This valuable feedback shaped the Transfer Care Specialist proposal.

Senate File 2611 authorizes Transfer Care Specialist to perform the removal of a dead human body. The legislation establishes a registration program with the Department of Health and requires supervision by a licensed funeral director. Additionally, it requires training on proper transfer procedures, health and safety protocols, and applicable laws. MFDA believes Senate File 2611 strikes the appropriate balance between access, quality, and safety.

This legislation will provide a new option to funeral establishments in carrying out the critical and sensitive duty of removal from the place of death, while maintaining the high standard of care and professionalism that Minnesotans deserve.

MFDA thanks Senator Utke and co-authors Senator Rarick and Senator Rasmusson for their leadership on this important issue. We urge you to support Senate File 2611 and thank you for considering the perspectives of Minnesota funeral directors.

Thank you,



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