

August 24th, 2023

To: Minnesota Department of Health

Re: SF 2611

HF 2509

To Whom It May Concern:

Please allow this letter to serve as UNCONDITIONAL SUPPORT for the above mentioned Legislative Bills that were/will be proposed. Every business I know, regardless of type, is facing the challenge of staffing.

In the Funeral Industry, we are NOT exempt from this difficult situation.

There have been times when removal from the place of death is delayed for hours and even, at times, need to be declined as there are not enough people (licensed) to make the removals from the place of death. Can you imagine having a loved one pass away at home or a nursing facility and funeral homes not being able to respond in a timely matter, often for hours? Needless to say, this creates a very uncomfortable time for the families of the deceased and loss of business to many funeral homes. Backfilling the need with trained, but unlicensed, personnel is a very logical and simple solution. It is inevitable that this will occur in the future. My opinion is the SOONER THE BETTER. Para this and Para that are becoming the norm in many businesses. It is long past due that the Funeral Industry changes to accommodate the families of deceased loved ones and the funeral homes serving them. This was a pilot program that worked very successfully on a small scale. It prevented a nightmare during the CoVid crisis, taking much pressure off of overloaded funeral home staffing across the state.

I encourage you to approve and extend this action of a larger scale, especially in the Metro Area where volume and staff shortages are extreme.

Respectfully,

Nick Radulovich

President

Kozlak-Radulovich Funeral Chapels