

September 18, 2023

To: Minnesota Department of Health

Re: SF 2611

HF 0943

To Whom It May Concern:

Please allow this letter to serve as 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? We have been able to do several removals for families that had already called at least two funeral homes who were unable to do pick up a deceased person who had died at home. These families were frantic by the time they called us. Needless to say, this creates a very uncomfortable time for the families of the deceased and loss of business to many funeral homes. Filling the need with trained, but unlicensed, personnel is a very logical and simple solution. It is inevitable that this will occur in the future. 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 pandemic, 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. This had been an ongoing problem in outstate Minnesota and now has become a major issue in the metro area.

Respectfully,

Teresa Honsa

Owner- Honsa Family Funeral Home