

October 19th, 2023

To:
Minnesota Representatives and Senators

Re:
SF 2611
HF 2509

Dear Legislature Members:

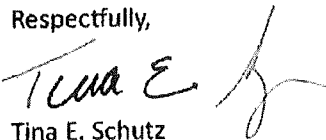
I am writing to express my support of the above-named bills currently under review in the MN Legislature. Like many other professions, funeral service is experiencing never before seen work force shortages, coupled with workplace burnout. This bill would go a long way in helping licensed funeral directors by allowing them to rely on a transfer specialist for just one step in the process of assisting that families that we serve. Like many other professions, adding a para-professional position seems like the best step forward at this time.

Currently, funeral directors in Minnesota must hold a license to transfer the deceased from their place of death, as well as make funeral arrangements with a family, embalm or otherwise care for the deceased, and supervise a funeral or burial. Here in Minnesota, during the COVID-19 pandemic, the licensure requirement for transfer of the deceased from the place of death was temporarily waived by MN-MDH, and unlicensed individuals were allowed to make these transfers. I saw no instances of anything inappropriate or unsafe with any transfers during this time and received no complaints from any of the families that we served – in fact, several families commented on how professional the team was.

Again, I am writing with my support of this legislation, but I do feel that the requirement of training and education for transfer care specialists is a key part of this bill. Any staff facilitating the transfer of the deceased needs to be trained on how to best make the transfers in a dignified and safe manner

Thank you.

Respectfully,



Tina E. Schutz
Funeral Director and Owner
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