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March 22, 2022

Members of the House Health Finance and Policy Committee,

On behalf of more than 600 funeral directors and 200+ funeral establishments, the Minnesota Funeral Directors Association (MFDA) supports HF 1888 as amended.

The Minnesota Funeral Directors Association is appreciative of Representative Huot for his work on this challenging issue so that stakeholders could reach consensus. We also want to thank Representative Schomacker for authoring MFDA's proposal, much of which is included in HF 1888 as amended.

Over the past three years, MFDA has gathered member feedback through member meetings as well as a survey of MFDA membership specifically on unlicensed removals. Additionally, MFDA provided input on the drafting of a research study conducted by the University of Minnesota Medical School's Program of Mortuary Science which assessed funeral professionals' attitudes toward policy changes, including the topic of removals by individuals other than licensed funeral directors.

Using the feedback from a broad group of both members and non-members, MFDA had a goal of finding compromise to allow unlicensed individuals to make removals. Most important to MFDA members is the inclusion of measures to require licensee supervision, Department of Health oversight, and appropriate training to protect the public health and the dignity of the deceased.

HF 1888, as amended, achieves this goal and provides a new option to funeral establishments in carrying out the duty of removal from the place of death while maintaining the high standard of care and professionalism that Minnesotans deserve.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Darlyne Erickson
Executive Director
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