

Representative Mitch Greenlick
Chair, House Health Care Committee

Re: Support for HB 3345

Date: April 9, 2013

Dear Chair Greenlick, & members of the committee:

For the record my name is Wally Ordeman and I am the lobbyist for the Oregon Funeral Directors Association (OFDA), and a fifth generation funeral director from Albany.

The statewide membership of the OFDA strongly encourages the passage of HB 3345 for the well being of Oregon's consumers and the overall protection of grieving families. While our industry is overseen by state and federal entities, it appears that non transplant research recovery organizations are not bound by the same oversight as the rest of the death care industry.

We feel that the same requirements as they pertain to disclosures, paper trails, and inspections should apply to any entities that handle deceased Oregonians. These requirements should also apply to anyone who has contact with the distraught families of these deceased people, either prior to a death or after a death. The OFDA believes that a state level regulatory body that has the tools to provide this oversight and education, with minimal fiscal impact, is a vital ingredient to maintaining the support and protection of the citizens of Oregon, and also the integrity of the entire death care industry.

While we recognize the scientific value of this relatively new industry, and at this time have no reason to question the integrity of those non transplant research recovery organizations that currently operate in Oregon, the OFDA feels that the State of Oregon would appreciate having some leverage for future possibilities of bad acts, or even have a role in the prevention of unfortunate occurrences, just as the state currently does for the balance of the death care industry.

The OFDA feels that this legislation is vital to the ongoing protection of Oregonians and strongly encourages the swift passage of HB 3345.

Respectfully,

Wally Ordeman
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