

Senate Committee on Health Care
Sen. Laurie Monnes Anderson, Chair

Re: Opposition to SB144

Chair Monnes Anderson & members of the committee:

My name is Wally Ordeman and I represent the Oregon Funeral Directors Association (OFDA) as their contract lobbyist. I am also a fifth-generation funeral director from Albany, licensed in Oregon for 34 years.

SB144 has raised red flags with those who serve your communities, and who are on the front lines when there is a death. Without any effort to collaborate with the rest of the industry, the non-transplant body procurement community has now proposed to place themselves on par with the tissue banks and educational systems of Oregon. They aren't. There is little transparency with Medcure and Biogift and any others that purport to be acting in the interests of Oregon's citizens. There are few disclosures, little tracking, nor any verifiable guarantees that the families of these deceased Oregonians are even told where in the nation or world their loved ones' "parts" are being sent, nor what portions of their loved ones are actually being returned to them as cremated remains.

The OFDA proposed HB3345 in 2015, which would have transferred authority over non-transplant anatomical research recovery organizations (NTARRO's) to the Oregon Mortuary & Cemetery Board (OMCB). This authority would have mandated inspections of these organizations. Rulemaking could have mandated full disclosure and tracking and transparency. Numerous compromises led to NTARRO's only being made to register with OHA and pay a fee.

The statewide membership of OFDA strongly encourages the swift defeat of SB144. Oregon's citizens should be assured of transparency and full disclosure when making the selfless gift of full body donation to science. NTARRO's have shown no interest in providing this assurance, whether "accredited" or not. They are not on par with the true educational entities available in Oregon, and Oregon should not allow them to solicit their services to Oregon's state registry.

Sincerely,
Wally Ordeman
Representing the Oregon Funeral Directors Assn.
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