

I have been a licensed funeral director and embalmer in the states of Oregon and Washington for 23 years. I was working in Seattle when Washington discontinued the drop to paper option in their electronic death registration system. I experienced first hand the efficiency of the process, and decreased wait times families experienced waiting on death certificates. In Oregon, when a doctor is unable or unwilling to sign in our efficient and easy to use electronic system (OVERS), the families we serve will then have to wait several additional days or weeks to obtain their certified death certificates. This causes undue stress and anguish in an already difficult time for them. Their ability to obtain funds from life insurance policies or anything involving settling the estate of their loved one is ground to a halt unnecessarily. Passing this bill will decrease wait time for these grieving families, it will save time and energy of driving the physical paper death certificate to the doctor and to the county vital statistics office, and eliminate the common occurrence of doctors losing the physical death certificates. Since we already have this convenient system in place, it only makes sense to require everyone to use it. It's easier, it's better for the environment, and will benefit all parties involved.