

Submitter: Astin Kowaleski
On Behalf Of: Ross Hollywood Chapel
Committee: House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health Care
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3127

My name is Astin Kowaleski, I have been a funeral director in Portland, Oregon for over 8 years. I strongly support this measure, please hear my personal experience why I find it critical to require doctors to sign death certificates electronically. During my time as a funeral director I have helped hundreds of families transport their deceased loved ones to international countries. This is a very tedious process of working with international consulates who always at a very minimum require a certified copy of a death certificate. Without the death certificate, everything is delayed in getting their loved one back to their home country. So when we have a case for transportation to an international country that has a doctor that signs by paper, we are automatically delayed in our process by at least a week or usually more. A week or more this family will have to wait even longer due to doctors not simply signing up for an electronic signature. Not only this but in a worst case scenario where say, the grieving family accidentally spells the deceased middle name incorrectly and the death certificate is already dropped to paper/sent from the county to the state it is impossible to correct the death certificate. Therefore delaying us from transporting to another country simply because a grieving family member accidentally misspelled a middle name and we are stuck in snail mail limbo.

In summary, my main reasoning for finding it important to require doctors to sign electronically is - it would make timing much more efficient when we are helping families transport their loved ones to international countries. Requiring doctors to sign electronically would allow them to sign within hours/days instead of weeks. AND it would make amendments far more efficient.

Please, for the sake of the community and grieving families. Require doctors to sign electronically.