

Testimony in Support of HB 3127

Submitted to the Oregon State Legislature

Honorable Members of the Oregon State Legislature,

My name is Marc Lund, and I am the owner-operator of funeral homes in Eugene and Cottage Grove, Oregon. I am writing to express our strong support for HB 3127, a bill that would mandate the use of the state electronic reporting system (OVERS) for signing certificates of death by physicians. This legislation is crucial for several reasons, which I will outline below.

Improved Accuracy of Death Certificates

First and foremost, the adoption of an electronic system for signing death certificates will vastly improve the accuracy and enhance security of these vital documents. When physicians sign physical copies, there is a significant risk of missing important information or failing to sign the document altogether. These oversights necessitate restarting the process at the funeral home, which consequently delays the issuance of the death certificate. Families who are already grieving must wait even longer for this essential document, adding to their distress. An electronic system ensures that all required fields are completed accurately and that the document is signed correctly the first time. Additionally, not requiring electronic filing can add weeks to the time it takes to obtain a certified death certificate. This delay has real-life impacts on survivors by limiting access to bank accounts, transferring property, and other important matters.

Environmental Impact

Another critical reason for supporting HB 3127 is the environmental benefit of reducing paper usage. Physical certificates require the funeral home to hand-deliver and pick up the documents once they are signed. This process results in multiple trips, significantly increasing the carbon footprint associated with the certification process. Reducing the number of trips not only decreases the environmental impact but also alleviates traffic congestion in metropolitan areas. By transitioning to a digital process, we can contribute to a more sustainable and environmentally friendly practice.

Proven Reliability of OVERS

Lastly, it is important to note that the OVERS system is not new; it has been in use for over a decade and has proven to be reliable and effective. This tried-and-true system has a track record of facilitating accurate and timely reporting. It is a system that both funeral homes and medical professionals can trust to streamline the death certification process.

In conclusion, we strongly urge the passing of HB 3127. This legislation will improve the accuracy of death certificates, decrease the time it takes for certification and reduce the environmental impact

by leveraging the proven reliability of the OVERS system. Thank you for considering our testimony in support of this important piece of legislation.

Respectfully submitted,

Marc Lund

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Marc Lund", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Owner - Funeral Director,

Smith-Lund-Mills Funeral Chapel & Crematorium - Cottage Grove, OR
Sunset Hills Funeral Home Crematorium & Cemetery - Eugene, OR