

February 15, 2024

Members of the House Commerce Finance and Policy Committee,

On behalf of the 600+ funeral directors and 250+ funeral establishments, the Minnesota Funeral Directors Association (MFDA) supports House File 3490, legislation to prohibit the unethical and disturbing practice of selling human remains.

MFDA's funeral director members see firsthand the grief and trauma still fresh for bereaved families who have recently lost a loved one. The thought that their deceased loved one's body could become an object of commercial exploitation is unconscionable. Yet under current law, few guardrails exist to prevent profiteering from this morally questionable trade.

House File 3490 provides simple yet effective protections: prohibiting the sales of human remains, with reasonable exceptions for established and publicly beneficial practices. This approach strikes the appropriate balance - allowing legitimate uses while upholding basic human dignity.

As funeral professionals dedicated to helping families honor their loved ones, we believe strongly that allowing the sales of human remains for profit runs counter to the core values of our society.

MFDA thanks Representative Becker-Finn and co-authors Representative Stephenson and Representative Curran for leading on this important issue. We urge your support of House File 3490, to put an end to this appalling practice.

Sincerely,



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