



MINNESOTA
FUNERAL DIRECTORS
ASSOCIATION

Professional. Compassionate. Dignified.

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Members of the House Judiciary Finance and Civil Law Committee,

On behalf of 600+ funeral directors and 250+ funeral establishments, the Minnesota Funeral Directors Association (MFDA) strongly supports House File 2509, which authorizes Transfer Care Specialists to perform the removal of a dead human body from the place of death.

Currently, only licensed funeral directors can make removals. Due to the unscheduled nature of death, both workload and workforce shortages of licensed funeral directors can cause delays in removals.

Crafted and considered by the funeral profession over multiple years, input was gathered from MFDA members, non-members, and the Department of Health. Additionally, MFDA worked to provide input on the drafting of a research study conducted by the University of Minnesota Program of Mortuary Science which assessed funeral professionals' attitudes toward policy changes. This valuable feedback shaped the Transfer Care Specialist proposal.

House File 2509 authorizes Transfer Care Specialist to perform the removal of a dead human body. The legislation establishes a registration program with the Department of Health and requires supervision by a licensed funeral director. Additionally, it requires training on proper transfer procedures, health and safety protocols, and applicable laws. MFDA believes House File 2509 strikes the appropriate balance between access, quality, and safety.

For consistency throughout Chapter 149A, the bill adds "Transfer Care Specialist" with the applicable references to "mortician" and "intern." As such, pertinent to the House Judiciary Finance and Civil Law Committee, are the modifications to Sections 10 and 11. Section 10 which requires court reporting to the Department of Health, adds Transfer Care Specialist to the existing references of mortician and intern. Similarly, Section 11 adds Transfer Care Specialist to the immunity resulting from a self-reported violation. It is MFDA's understanding that both sections are rarely, if ever, used.

This legislation will provide a new option to funeral establishments in carrying out the critical and sensitive duty of removal from the place of death, while maintaining the high standard of care and professionalism that Minnesotans deserve.

MFDA thanks Representative Huot for leading on this important issue.

Thank you to Chair Becker-Finn and the committee for hearing the bill, and we urge your support of House File 2509.

Thank you,

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