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**TESTIMONY OF
ATTORNEY GENERAL RICHARD BLUMENTHAL
BEFORE THE PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE
FEBRUARY 26, 2007**

I appreciate the opportunity to support House Bill 7160, An Act Concerning Funerals.

This proposal requires at least 2 hours of continuing education for funeral directors concerning relevant federal and state law, and mandates that funeral homes maintain copies of state certification for each funeral director employed by the funeral home. The legislation also makes the cremation statutes consistent with current procedures for burial.

Individuals spend thousands of dollars on funeral services. My office has worked with the funeral industry establishing consumer protection for prepaid funeral services and consumer notification of the costs of funeral and burial services. In addition, the Federal Trade Commission has promulgated regulations regarding the sale of funeral goods and services. Funeral directors must keep current on the changes in the laws and regulations involving their industry.

Each funeral director must complete six hours of continuing education each year. This proposal requires that at least 2 hours of that requirement be dedicated to federal and state law.

The Department of Public Health is charged with the licensing of funeral directors and the inspection of funeral homes. This legislation will facilitate the department's review of funeral home compliance with the law by requiring the funeral home to maintain copies of the licenses of funeral directors.

I urge the committee to favorably consider House Bill 7160 with following clarifying amendment:

Delete the new language on lines 172-173
On line 238 after "retain" insert "a copy of"

Thank you.