

**CT Funeral Directors Association, Inc.**

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Written Testimony of

Nicole I. Granados, CFSP, CPC, Legislative Chair

Connecticut Funeral Directors Association, Inc.

**RE: Proposed Bill No. 6049**

**An Act Concerning Facilities of Colleges that offer Mortuary Science**

Date: February 27, 2009

State of Connecticut - General Assembly – Committee on Public Health

Good day, Senator Harris, Representative Ritter and members of the Public Health Committee, my name is Nicole Granados and I am a funeral director and embalmer. As Legislative Chair, I respectfully submit this testimony on behalf of the Connecticut Funeral Directors Association (CFDA).

With the matter of House Bill 6049, An Act Concerning Facilities of Colleges that offer Mortuary Science, the Connecticut Funeral Directors Association supports this Proposed Bill.

This bill will allow practical experience to students of a mortuary science program in a working preparation embalming room. Having such a facility is essential for the hands-on practical learning that students will need to successfully become licensed as an embalmer. This bill is particularly beneficial to students who do not have experiences that can only come from employment or an affiliation with a funeral home.

More and more students today are entering the funeral service field as "first generation," meaning the student does not come from a family who owns or works in a funeral home. The students may not even be affiliated with a funeral home while enrolled. Many mortuary science programs require a practical internship in their curriculum, which might simply be satisfied by observing certain preparations. For the student who does not have an affiliation with a funeral home, this requirement will be difficult to complete.

A working preparation embalming room will help these and other students to accomplish their educational requirements, while observing technical skills, techniques and applications. It might also indirectly serve to dissuade those students who may conclude that mortuary science is not quite for them. We support the opportunity for students to receive practical experience with their education and are in favor of this bill being approved by the committee. Thank you for your consideration and the opportunity to submit this testimony.

Respectfully,

Nicole Granados

Funeral Director/Embalmer

