



CONNECTICUT  
FUNERAL DIRECTORS  
ASSOCIATION

Written Testimony of  
William R. Molloy, Legislative Chair  
Connecticut Funeral Directors Association, Inc.

**Sunset Review: Board of Examiners of Embalmers and Funeral Directors**

Legislative Program Review & Investigations Committee  
November 14, 2011 - Public Hearing

Good afternoon Senator Fonfara, Representative Rowe and the distinguished members of the Program Review & Investigation Committee my name is William R. Molloy. I am the owner and operator of Molloy Funeral Home in West Hartford and I currently serve as the Legislative Chair of the Connecticut Funeral Directors Association. I'm here today to offer testimony on behalf of CFDA which represents over 220 funeral homes in the State of Connecticut.

Under Connecticut's current sunset statute (Title 2c, Chapter 28 Connecticut Sunset Law) 75 specified state entities or programs terminate over a five-year cycle, starting July 1, 2013, unless you, the legislature, vote to re-establish each of them. One of these entities set to terminate is the State Board of Examiners of Embalmers and Funeral Directors. The Connecticut Funeral Directors Association is here today in support of the continuation of the existence of this very important and unique board.

The State Board of Examiners of Embalmers and Funeral Directors is made up of five members, consisting of two public members and three practical arterial embalmers, actively engaged in the practice. These board members meet at least every calendar quarter and are not compensated for their services. Their duties include to hear and decide matters concerning suspension or revocation of licensure, adjudicate complaints filed against licensed practitioners and to impose sanctions where appropriate.

Funeral Directors and Embalmers understand the importance of maintaining a state entity such as the State Board of Examiners of Embalmers and Funeral Directors. The three practical arterial embalmers who sit on the board provide the expertise necessary for the board to carry out their duties. They have heard cases, some of which have received public media attention, and carried through with appropriate and prudent judgments. This has earned them the respect from their like peers. Furthermore, their expertise and knowledge as funeral directors inherently provides for them the unique and combined ability to hear and fully understand any issues involving BOTH Public Health and Safety, and Consumer Protection issues, that are unique to the funeral industry. We are aware that their time is warranted to the public and their peers, as they do hear several or even a couple dozen cases at any time.

CFDA believes that there is a public need for this regulatory entity and to terminate such board could allow for the endangerment of public health, safety, welfare and protection for consumers. We believe that the board's history of handing down decisions after reviewing and hearing the cases that are brought before them helps to promote the safeguards necessary to serve the general public. CFDA overwhelmingly recommends the continuation of this State Board of Examiners of Embalmers and Funeral Directors. We hope that you, too, will see the practical wisdom, logic and benefits of the continuation of the existence of this state entity and we ask for your legislative support. Thank you.

364 Silas Deane Highway, Wethersfield, Connecticut 06109

(860) 721-0234 • FAX (860) 257-3617 • 1-800-919-CFDA • www.ctfda.org • e-mail: connfda@aol.com