



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

**TESTIMONY PRESENTED BEFORE THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC HEALTH
March 16, 2012**

Jewel Mullen MD, MPH, MPA, Commissioner, (860) 509-7101

House Bill 5498 – AN ACT CONCERNING CHANGES TO THE FUNERAL SERVICES STATUTES

The Department of Public Health opposes Section 2 of House Bill 5498.

Currently, funeral homes are required to store all records relating to contracts for funeral services, prepaid funeral service contracts or escrow accounts, as well as copies of death certificates, burial permits, authorizations for cremation, documentation of receipt of cremated remains and written agreements used in making arrangements for final disposition of dead human bodies, including, but not limited to, copies of the final bill and other written evidence of agreement or obligation furnished to consumers on-site at the funeral home in which these services were provided. Section 2 of House Bill 5498 would allow funeral homes to relocate these records and store them at the address of another funeral service business in the state that is owned by the same person or corporation identified on the certificate of inspection.

The requirement that records be maintained on-site at the funeral home where services are provided was inserted into the statute at the request of the Department in 2007, primarily to ensure that such records are available to be reviewed at the time of each funeral home's unannounced annual inspection and at any other time the department conducts an inspection or investigation. Implementation of this proposal would negatively impact the department in that records may not be available at the time of unannounced visits and would require the inspector to make a second visit to another funeral home, either on that day or depending on other variables such as time of day or distance between the two funeral homes, on another day. The department has not been made aware of any issues related to the storage of records on-site at the funeral home in which services were provided.

The Department does not oppose sections 1, 3 and 4.

Thank you for your consideration of the Department's views on this bill.

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