

Written Testimony of William Molloy
Connecticut Funeral Directors Association

Program Review & Investigation Committee
March 13, 2012

Raised Bill No. 412 An Act Implementing The Recommendations of the Program Review and Investigations Committee Concerning The Regulation of Embalmers and Funeral Service Establishments and Certain Professional Board and Commission Hearings

Good day Senator Fonfara, Representatives Rowe and members of the Program Review & Investigation Committee, my name is Randy Molloy and I am a funeral director at the Molloy Funeral Home in West Hartford. I am here today representing the CT Funeral Director's Association (CFDA) which represents 220 of 292 funeral homes in the State of Connecticut. I am grateful for this opportunity to provide this testimony today and I thank you for raising Bill No. 412.

The CT Funeral Directors Association supports the concepts of Raised Bill No. 412, including:

- The intent of a funeral service fact sheet prepared by the Department of Consumer Protection (DCP) to be provided to any person who inquires in person at a funeral service establishment about purchasing a funeral service contract. CFDA supports such fact sheet provided that it contains true and accurate information that would not mislead the purchaser or beneficiary. It is the opinion of CFDA that the current fact sheet (brochure) currently available electronically on the website of Department of Consumer Protection seems in one portion, to be, at least confusing and perhaps inaccurate. Furthermore, the inclusion of the words, a "Prearranged Funeral Agreement" in the DCP fact sheet is currently not defined in statute. CFDA intends to provide further recommendations to DCP in an effort to produce a brochure that would not confuse or provide inaccurate information to the purchaser or beneficiary.
- Secondly, CFDA supports the proposal of the Connecticut Funeral Service Contract Guaranty Fund that the Commissioner of Consumer Protection shall establish and maintain. Such fund is intended for purchasers or beneficiaries whose funeral service contracts are not provided for by a funeral establishment. The proposal of ten dollars from each licensing fee or renewal is reasonable to create such a fund, however CFDA strongly recommends that those deposits entirely be placed in the guaranty fund rather than the General Fund in order to provide for the full conceptual intent of a guaranty fund and to ensure that funds will be available to the purchaser or beneficiary in such an event.

In conclusion, CFDA would like to thank the PRI committee for raising this bill and for allowing CFDA the opportunity to contribute to their study and review. Thank you for your attention and I welcome any questions that you may have at this time.