

Lesko & Polke Funeral Home
Pre-Planning ♦ Cremation Services

Established in 1890

1209 Post Road Fairfield, CT 06824 Telephone (203) 256-8988

Visit us at www.leskopolkefuneralhome.com ♦ leskopolkefh@aol.com

February 20, 2013

Dear members of the Public Health Committee,

Last year, I sat with Senator John McKinney and Representative Brenda Kupchick, along with other local business leaders in the Town of Fairfield. During that time, many problematic laws to small business were discussed, one being the present law on funeral homes serving food and beverage. I am delighted to know our elected leaders listen to the voices of small business, and take action. Along with my partner, Frank Polke, I firmly support the new bill to allow food and beverage to be served in funeral homes that choose to offer such hospitalities. Below, please see why I support this bill.

Reason #1

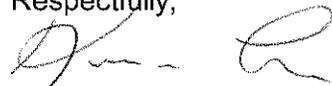
This is clearly an opportunity for Connecticut's Funeral Professionals to enhance the public's perception of their service. Allowing each Connecticut funeral home the choice to offer light food and non-alcoholic beverages (i.e. coffee, tea, and cookies) in a controlled location within their facility is a simple gesture of hospitality that 45 other states presently allow. Such offerings foster a more comforting environment for grieving families while adding minimal expense to a firm's operating overhead. Therefore, the adoption of this new bill will add an intrinsic value to the funeral experience of each family served, and by extension, to those who are serving them.

Reason #2

Why is it that a person can receive a complimentary cup of coffee or popcorn from a place that changes oil, or wine and cheese from a hair salon, yet it is a finable offense for a Connecticut funeral home to give a person a warm cup of tea? Passing this bill into Connecticut law will correct this issue, and not force any Connecticut funeral home to start serving food and beverage. However, its lack of presence will continue to restrict those who have the ability and wish to offer such services to the families they caregive to.

Think of the passage of this bill as another helpful tool available to those who care to give their very best to each and every family served. Please reach out to me with any additional questions or concerns regarding the passage of this bill.

Respectfully,



Kevin M. Lesko
Co-Owner of
Lesko & Polke Funeral Home.