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Good afternoon Sen. Gerratana, Rep Johnson and members of the Public Health Committee.

My name is Ann Targonski. I am a licensed funeral director with New Britain Memorial Funeral Home and I am here to express support for **SB 434- An Act Concerning Food and Beverage Service in Funeral Homes.**

This bill is an outgrowth of a task force formed by the legislature last session to study the provision of food and beverages in funeral homes. I was privileged to serve as a member of that task force, which held a public hearing on this issue to help inform its recommendations. It was an informative and productive experience.

SB 434, which reflects the unanimous decision of the TF, would allow funeral homes to serve nonalcoholic beverages and packaged food to client families during pre-arrangement and arrangement planning. The state has been operating under an all-out ban on food and beverages for far too long in my opinion. This bill represents a small but positive step toward helping our industry evolve with the marketplace in CT and the rest of the country. The TF recommendations met with a positive response from our client families, and I look forward to having the opportunity to put it into practice should this bill be approved. I hope you will support SB 434.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.