

Dear Members of the Public Health Committee,

As the owners and licensed staff of Lesko & Polke Funeral Home, of Fairfield, we support the passage of the latest proposed bill on serving food and beverage in Connecticut funeral homes. We feel this proposed new law will enhance the services our funeral home provides to grieving families.

Along with Representative Brenda Kupchick about this time last year, I had the honor to address many of your committee regarding HB 5244. It was an expanded proposed bill on serving food and beverages in Connecticut funeral homes. As you are well aware, what would have seemed to be a simple concept of hospitality to those in need became a complicated notion. It was a disappointment to see the bill fail because of a sense of market protectionism.

Before you a year later is a compromised version of the prior proposed bill. Influences from both inside and outside our state's funeral service industry have brought us all to the table with the latest proposed bill. It includes the most passable language to date. Again, we support this proposed bill to allow non alcoholic beverages and prepackaged foods to families while making arrangements, and do encourage you to do the same. We thank you for your time and focus.

With gratitude,

Kevin M. Lesko

Frank M. Polke

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