

Connecticut Funeral Directors Association, Inc.

364 Silas Deane Highway
Wethersfield, CT 06109
(860) 721-0234

Written Testimony of
Randy Molloy, Co-Chair of the Legislative Committee

SB 105, An Act Concerning the Payment of Funeral and Burial Expenses by the Department of Social Services

Human Services Committee
Public Hearing
February 18, 2016

Good afternoon Senator Moore, Representative Abercrombie, Senator Markley, Representative Wood and the distinguished members of the Human Services Committee. My name is Randy Malloy and I am the Legislative Committee Co-Chair of the Connecticut Funeral Directors Association (CFDA), CFDA represents 220 funeral homes. I'm also a licensed funeral director and the owner of the Molloy Funeral Home in West Hartford.

While CFDA recognizes and sincerely appreciates the very difficult choices you will need to make in regards to the state budget, we must oppose Senate Bill 105, which gives very broad authority to the Department of Social Services' commissioner, in regards to funding indigent funerals. Specifically, in Section 1(b) (lines 21 to 25) and Section 2(b) (lines 49 to 53) the commissioner is permitted to adopt regulations that will determine payment levels for the types of funeral and burial services as well as funeral merchandise.

This proposal is just another way to cut funding to the indigent population. As we stated last week to this committee, CFDA members our proud to care for all people regardless of income providing them with dignity and respect in death that every citizen deserves. However, we are deeply concerned that giving the commissioner of the Department of Social Services the broad authority to set pricing levels for funeral services will lead to a minimal disposition of human remains. Our indigent population deserves better.

CFDA would most respectfully ask that these sections be removed from this legislation.

Thank you for your consideration of this testimony and I am available to answer any questions that you may have.