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March 20, 2018

Dear Senator Somers, Senator Gerratana, Representative Steinberg, Representative Srinivasan, and distinguished members of the Public Health Committee,

I am State Senator Michael McLachlan, and I am testifying today on Senate Bill No. 298, **An Act Concerning Burial and Cremation in Cases of Spontaneous Fetal Demise**. This legislation would allow the burial or cremation of a fetus following spontaneous fetal demise.

Spontaneous fetal demise refers to the death of a fetus that occurs prior to a gestation period of 20 weeks. This is also known as a miscarriage.

According to the National Institute of Health, an estimated 15-20 percent of known pregnancies in the United States end in a miscarriage. When a miscarriage does occur, it is common practice that the health care facilities will dispose of the remains as medical waste.

I have heard from many residents of the state that have experienced a miscarriage, and they wish that they had an option to dispose of the remains of the miscarried fetus.

23 states currently have laws addressing this issue to varying degrees. Connecticut's current laws do not address the issue of parents being able to dispose of a fetus prior to 20 weeks.

If passed, this legislation would change this, and would allow the mother that miscarried the right to choose to dispose of the remains by burial or cremation.

Having this option may help parents with the grieving process of experiencing a miscarriage. This will allow them the ability to say "good bye," and also the option of being able to visit the remains.

We should do all we can to help parents that have experienced loss the ability to grieve and bring closure to the situation, which will help them be able to move on.

I hope that Connecticut will join the other 23 states that have addressed this issue, and we do not remain silent.

Thank you for your consideration.

Michael A. McLachlan
State Senator – 24th District