

**TESTIMONY OF  
MARILYN BRANDT  
PRESIDENT OF THE  
OHIO CEMETERY ASSOCIATION  
IN SUPPORT OF H.B. 168  
BEFORE THE  
HOUSE STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE  
May 16, 2017**

Chairwoman Anielski, Vice-Chair Hambley and members of the Committee, my name is Marilyn Brandt. I am the Vice President of Operations and Chief Operating Officer of Lake View Cemetery in Cleveland. I have been with Lake View for twenty - four (24) years and have worked in the cemetery industry for almost thirty (30) years (including a position with a “union” cemetery operated by two municipalities.) I have also served on the Ohio Cemetery Dispute Resolution Commission for over ten (10) years. Finally, I am currently the President of the Ohio Cemetery Association, a statewide trade association of Ohio cemeteries. The OCA’s members include not-for-profit associations, for profit cemeteries, township and municipal cemeteries and religious cemeteries. I offer my testimony today in my capacity as President of the OCA.

The OCA participated in the Ohio Cemetery Law Task Force. As Representative Stein testified last week during his Sponsor testimony, House Bill 168 would codify many of the Task Force’s Report and Recommendation of September 2014. Please be advised that the OCA supports most of the Task Force’s Recommendations, those portions carried forward into HB 168 and the Bill in its entirety, in its current format. Understanding that Representative Stein detailed the many code revisions included in the Bill in his Sponsor testimony, I’ll resist the opportunity to provide a similar summary.

Instead, I would like to focus on the certain features of the Cemetery Grant Program which will be created by the Bill. First, the OCA specifically endorses that the grants will be available to all types of cemeteries, excluding for profit cemeteries. Additionally, the OCA is comfortable with the Division of Real Estate in the Department of Commerce awarding grants in accordance with rules adopted by the OCDRC.

I would be pleased to address any questions. In that regard, Tim Long, the OCA’s counsel and lobbyist, is here today too and can assist, as needed.