

Dawn Call
HB 146
Proponent Testimony
May 23, 2017

Chair Anielski, Vice Chair Hambley, thank you for the opportunity to testify in favor of House Bill 146. My name is Dawn Call, and I am the future daughter in law of Debbie Meadows. Today we meet to try and right a wrong that has fallen upon my family, and hopefully prevent this tragedy from happening to another family in the future. Just over three years ago, Debbie Meadows was taken away from us by a repeat drunk driver whose blood alcohol level was 0.214 percent – well over twice the legal limit. She was taken from us far too early, and now the accused can walk free with a slap on the wrist because of a grossly misgoverned coroner's office. A change in a death certificate 3 years later with no creditable explanation, other than an envelope appearing in the mail, is not only offensive, but also highly suspicious. There are no checks and balances on the coroner's office; and because of that, the man who killed my fiancé's mother is free with only a misdemeanor on his record. Franklin County Coroner Dr. Anahi Ortiz has not even had the courtesy to speak with our family or give us any kind of explanation as to why she changed Debbie's death certificate, when she was not even the coroner when Debbie died. By requiring coroners to go before a judge before changing a death certificate, it will allow for more checks and balances in our coroner's offices. I hope today we can start the process of allowing House Bill 146 to protect families and to not allow another tragedy like this to happen.