



## Ohio Funeral Directors Association

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February 28, 2022

The Honorable Bob Peterson  
Chairman, Senate General Budget Committee  
1 Capitol Square  
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Dear Chairman Peterson,

On behalf of the Ohio Funeral Directors Association (OFDA) and our nearly 1,000 funeral homes throughout every county in Ohio, **we urge a “Yes” vote on Am. Senate Bill 224** at tomorrow’s seventh hearing in the Senate General Government Budget Committee. The bill was introduced by Senator Jerry Cirino in September and makes dozens of meaningful improvements to Ohio’s funeral laws. These improvements will strengthen consumer protections in our industry and will allow funeral directors to better assist families in their time of grief.

Major components of the bill include, but are not limited to:

- Strengthening several components to Ohio’s preneed funeral law;
- Streamlining the state’s cremation standards;
- Clarifying the right of disposition, simplifying record-keeping requirements, and ensuring safety protocols for funeral processions;
- Allowing funeral directors to obtain fetal death certificates for grieving parents;
- Updating and clarifying miscellaneous issues surrounding the state’s funeral law, including elimination of outdated signage requirements, and clarification of licensing requirements to ensure out-of-state-licensees are “in good standing” in their home state before Ohio will grant a license.

This bill is a result of more than a year of collaboration between OFDA, the State Board of Embalmers and Funeral Directors, and other interested parties. **Since the bill’s introduction six months ago, we have engaged in half a dozen interested party meetings and made significant concessions to opponents, including the Ohio Cemetery Association and others. As you know, we have worked closely with you and Senator Cirino to incorporate nearly every amendment they have offered into this bill.**

We are grateful for the leadership of both you and Senator Cirino on this legislation and look forward to the continued conversation and work in the Ohio House of Representatives.

Sincerely,

Michael T. Smith  
OFDA President

Melissa Sullivan  
OFDA Executive Director

Cc: Members of the Senate General Budget Committee  
Matt Huffman, President of the Ohio Senate