



## Ohio Funeral Directors Association

Melissa S. Sullivan, Executive Director  
Melissa@OFDAonline.org

2501 North Star Road  
Columbus, OH 43221-0760  
614-486-5339 • 800-589-6332

OFDAonline.org  
fax 614-486-5358 • 800-507-1465

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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 Amendment 1642-2 to Am. Senate Bill 224** at tomorrow's eighth 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 allow funeral directors to better assist families in their time of grief.

**At OFDA's request, this amendment removes every opposed component from previous versions of the bill. The item that caused the most discussion, changes to casket trusting law for preneed contracts, have been removed entirely and replaced with a simple report to be issued by the State Board of Embalmers and Funeral Directors three months after the effective date of the bill.**

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

- Strengthening several other 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- Updating and clarifying miscellaneous issues surrounding the state's funeral law, including elimination of outdated signage requirements, and clarification of licensing requirements to ensure out-of-state-licensees are "in good standing" in their home state before Ohio will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 very hard with you and Senator Cirino to bring all opponents and interested parties onto the bill, we hope, as proponents.**

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

Michael Dittoe  
OFDA Lobbyist