



January 12, 2024

The Honorable Marilyn John  
Chair, Ohio House State and Local Government Committee  
77 South High Street, 13<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Dear Chairwoman John,

On behalf of the Ohio Funeral Directors Association (OFDA) and our more than 3,000 funeral directors across the State of Ohio, we write to you today as proponents of House Bill 315. Specifically, this bill in its current form contains a provision that reinstates funding for Ohio's Indigent Burial and Cremation Support Program.

The program provides an opportunity for local governments to apply for reimbursement for the cost of providing burials or cremations to indigent deceased persons. Indigent burials are the responsibility of local government entities. The program may reimburse the local government entity the actual costs charged or contracted by a funeral home to perform up to a maximum of \$1,000 for an adult and up to a maximum of \$750 for a child. Only local government entities are eligible to apply for reimbursement from the program.

In the most recent state budget, the operational funding for the program itself remained, but the appropriation of \$1 million annually was zeroed out. The lack of funding in the state budget does not provide the Ohio Board of Embalmers and Funeral Directors with ability to reimburse local government entities for the cost of providing burials or cremations to indigent deceased persons and consequently suspended the program as of July 1, 2023. We hope to have the funds reinstated House Bill 315 to provide some assistance to local governments, particularly townships, for these expenses.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Andrew Allman, CAE  
Executive Director

Michael Schoedinger, CFSP  
President