

House Business Affairs & Labor

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HB24-1335 Sunset Continue Mortuary Science Code Regulation

Typed Text of Testimony Submitted

Name, Position, Representing	Typed Text of Testimony
Carolyn Boller For Colorado Chapter of the Alliance for Retired Americans and the Colorado Democratic Party Senior Initiative	<p>The 28,000 members of the Alliance for Retired Americans strongly supports this legislation. It is long overdue. The death of loved ones is difficult to handle and then to learn that the people who expected to care for your loved persons has left them to rot, or given you fake ashes is totally unacceptable and deserves to be audited/monitored, and their actions are criminal.</p> <p>The Senior Initiative represents seniors age 55 and older, and strongly supports this legislation</p> <p>Thank you for introducing this bill and we request you pass it out of committee and thru both houses.</p>
Elisabeth Ostly For themselves	<p>I come before you as a bereaved daughter whose loved one was dishonored by the abhorrent actions committed at the "Return to Nature" funeral home. The gravity of this crime cannot be overstated, for its impact is deep and its wound on our souls can never heal.</p> <p>The desecration of my father's remains has shattered the sanctity of his final farewell, leaving me and my family in a perpetual state of disbelief and sorrow. The knowledge that my father, Bruce Ostly, who lived his life with dignity, compassion, was denied his last wish to be returned to the earth with respect, has been an agonizing burden we will forever bear.</p> <p>For the last three years of his life, my father graced my home with his presence, his gentle spirit and intellectual curiosity enriching our lives daily. In his final hours, I held his hand, offering comfort and love, believing that in death, he would be treated with the reverence he deserved. Instead, his body was heartlessly mingled with others in grotesque neglect, his final wishes unfulfilled, his dignity stripped away, his legacy reduced to a box of powder, likely concrete.</p> <p>He entrusted me to carry out his final wishes, and I could not. I could not repay the single greatest gift I ever received: the gift of family. Fifty-seven years ago he chose me into his family. He chose me for adoption, and gave me the life I've been blessed to build with my children and my husband and the family we've created together, all because of Bruce's impossible gift of love to a newborn innocent. He chose me, and I could not repay him his last request. I can never resolve that incompleteness.</p> <p>I implore you to consider the profound and lasting impact of this crime on not only the affected families of identified victims, but, indeed, on</p>

	<p>our entire community. We ask for the strongest possible laws that account for the gravity of the offense, ones that strongly discourage and prevent this type of crime. Colorado needs and deserves strong laws protecting its citizens from those who would prey on us at our most vulnerable. It is a travesty that Colorado protects consumers from barbers and manicurists but not mortuary science "professionals". We deserve better, and I think HB24-1335 is a step in the right direction. In closing, may our pursuit of justice bring some measure of peace to the souls so callously wronged.</p>
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