

Thank you for listening to my concerns about HB 1202. As a Colorado consumer who advocates for home funerals, I believe that this bill raises many questions and has the potential for unintended consequences.

For instance, will the onerous requirements in the bill cause many small, independently owned, legitimate funeral homes to fold? Will it create barriers to entry for new funeral home businesses so that just a few large ones survive? If so, and this seems a real~~ly~~ likelihood in my opinion, then you can be sure that prices of funerals will go up. Is this what Coloradoans need in these economic times?

Would this bill cause hospitals, hospices and nursing homes to implement policy making it difficult for non-profits like Natural Transitions to aid families in retrieving their loved ones bodies? While I have heard blanket reassurances that this won't happen, nothing in this bill seems to protect the small but growing movement for those of us who advocate for home funerals.

While I understand the need for some regulation for the Colorado funeral industry, I am concerned that it will also impede the efforts of groups like Natural Transitions in encouraging people to consider other options in caring for their dead.

Natural Transitions provides a service, a wonderful service, to those of us who want forego the "funeral home way" of caring for their deceased loved ones. I respectfully urge this committee to consider adding clear language to this bill that would preserve the rights of those who seek a less expensive and more meaningful way to care for their loved ones upon death. If you're going to introduce legislation to protect consumers, let's get it right so that Colorado families have more choices, not fewer.

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