

Nebraska Funeral Directors Association, Inc.

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To Whom It May Concern,

The proposed change to establish credentialing requirements for crematory operators in Nebraska reflects a necessary modernization of the state's approach to final disposition. Cremation has become an increasingly common choice for families, yet current Nebraska statutes do not specifically require education, training, or certification for individuals operating cremation equipment. This creates a significant regulatory gap in a process that is both highly technical and deeply sensitive.

Unlike funeral directors, who are licensed and regulated under existing state law, crematory operators may currently perform their duties without standardized oversight or demonstrated competency. This lack of uniform requirements introduces the potential for errors in identification, handling, and processing—areas where mistakes can have profound emotional and legal consequences for families. High-profile incidents in other states have shown that without proper regulation, there is an increased risk of unethical practices and mishandling of remains, undermining public trust in the profession.

Implementing a credentialing framework would establish clear standards for training, ethical conduct, and operational procedures. It would ensure that individuals entrusted with this responsibility possess the knowledge and skills necessary to carry out cremations with dignity, accuracy, and respect. Additionally, certification would promote accountability through defined expectations and potential disciplinary mechanisms, aligning crematory operations more closely with the regulatory structure already in place for other areas of funeral service.

Ultimately, this change is about protecting the public, supporting professional integrity, and recognizing the evolving role of cremation in Nebraska. By formalizing qualifications for crematory operators, the state can close a critical gap in oversight while reinforcing confidence in the care provided at one of the most important moments for Nebraska families.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Paul Seger', is written over a horizontal line.

Paul Seger
Legislative Committee Chair
Nebraska Funeral Directors Association