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W I E D E M A N F U N E R A L H O M E , I N C .

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November 4, 2009

Arthur Coccodrilli, Chairman IRRC
333 Market Street, 14th Floor
Harrisburg, PA 17101

INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
REVIEW COMMISSION

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Dear Chairman Coccodrilli,

I am writing you as a Licensed Funeral Director in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania urging you to support Regulation 16A-4816, as proposed by the State Board of Funeral Directors for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. This regulation helps to define what an unlicensed employee can do regarding pre-arrangement and pre-financing of funeral services.

This regulation, proposed by the State Board of Funeral Directors, specifically to address the concerns raised in the Federal Court Case, Walker v. Flitton, 2005. The Federal Court Case of Walker did not overrule Pennsylvania statute or case law which provides that only a Licensed Funeral Director can sell or offer to sell pre-need services and merchandise incidental thereto. Over the past four years, the Pennsylvania State Board of Funeral Directors held public meetings seeking input from all interested parties prior to promulgating this regulation. Two independent studies of consumers conducted in the Commonwealth overwhelmingly supported the concept that only Licensed Funeral Directors should be able to arrange pre-need and at-need funeral services. In addition to this consumer feedback, AARP, the largest senior group in Pennsylvania strongly supports Regulation 4816.

It is inconceivable to me, as a Licensed Funeral Director in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, that this regulation would not be seriously considered and adopted by our State Board. With the abuses in

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pre-need sales by unlicensed individuals in other states, this regulation would certainly help to protect the consumers in the Commonwealth.

Thank you for your time and serious consideration and hopefully recommending that 4816 be endorsed by your committee.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dennis Wiedeman, F.D." The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'D'.

Dennis L. Wiedeman, F.D.