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HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
HARRISBURG

November 6, 2009

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INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
REVIEW COMMISSION

Mr. Arthur Coccodrilli
Chairman
Independent Regulatory Review Commission
333 Market Street
Harrisburg, PA 17101

Dear Chairman Coccodrilli:

I would like to express my strong support for Regulation 16A-4816 as proposed by the State Board of Funeral Directors.

As you know, the State Board of Funeral Directors has conducted public hearings over a period of four years in order to gather testimony from all affected parties prior to promulgation of these regulations as a means to address the issues raised in the federal court case *Walker v. Flitton* (2005). Subsequent to this ruling, the Board has carefully crafted its regulations to more clearly define permissible activities by unlicensed employees in funeral homes, further reflecting compliance with current state law relative to the sale of services by licensed funeral directors.

In 1993 I and thirty-six co-sponsors introduced House Bill 2347, a comprehensive pre-need bill that would have provided reasonable oversight of pre-need trusting and sales in Pennsylvania for funeral homes and cemeteries. This legislation was based on the AARP-endorsed model pre-need law. The former Pennsylvania Cemetery Association, now the Pennsylvania Cemetery, Cremation, and Funeral Association, opposed House Bill 2347. In my view, what many pre-need sellers want is the ability to sell pre-need services without proper restriction or oversight. I believe Regulation 16A-4816 is in the public's best interest, and would likewise respectfully request IRRC's approval of it before November 17, 2009.

Once again, your favorable consideration of this important matter will be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ron Buxton", written over a horizontal line.

RONALD I. BUXTON
State Representative
103rd Legislative District

RIB/cs