

February 16, 2026

House Bill 564

Business Regulation – Pet Cremations and Burial Services

FAVORABLE

I write in strong support of House Bill 564.

My 13-year-old German Shepherd was not property. She was family. She helped raise my daughters. She stood beside us through life's ordinary days and its hardest moments. She was loyalty, comfort, and protection wrapped in fur. She trusted us completely — and we trusted that, at the end of her life, she would be treated with dignity.

When she passed away, we believed her remains would be handled with care and returned to us honestly.

Instead, she was found a week later discarded on the side of a road. The ashes we were given, the ashes we held and cried over, were not hers.

There is a unique cruelty in discovering that your beloved companion was treated as disposable. We did not just lose our dog. We lost trust. We were retraumatized. We had to grieve her all over again.

And we later learned many other families received remains that were not their own pets. That knowledge deepens the heartbreak and adds another layer of pain.

Pets are not property. They are not replaceable. They are members of our families.

House Bill 564 does not ask for anything extraordinary. It asks for transparency, documentation, and accountability. It asks that when families say goodbye to a beloved companion, they are met with honesty and basic human decency.

No family should ever endure what we did.

I respectfully urge a favorable report on HB 564.

Thank you.

Eric and Gail Cook