



Support-
Senate Bill 84 –
Funeral Establishments and Crematories–Unclaimed Cremains of Veterans–
Notification, Disposition, and Reporting
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Maryland Right to Life wishes to convey our support for Senate Bill 84

Maryland Right to Life, Inc. (MDRTL) supports public policy that recognizes the fundamental value of each human life. Our veterans deserve respect and dignity in death just as they do in life. Maryland law should advance public policy that supports the respectful final disposition of all human bodily remains. Veterans in particular have earned the right to final resting that marks their lives and service with distinction and honor.

SB84 is common sense legislation that recognizes the value of human life

Current Maryland law fails to adequately provide for the respectful final disposition of our veterans. State law fails to provide for the effective notification of next of kin and existing procedures are not uniformly applied. As a result, our deceased loved ones often do not receive the dignified disposition that they deserve. The Department of Veterans Affairs is in the best position to provide for the dignified final disposition of our veterans when next of kin either do not exist or fail to claim the bodily remains. SB84 is narrowly tailored to ensure that the Department receives adequate notice and opportunity to provide for that disposition in a manner worthy of our military service members who have sacrificed greatly for our country. This legislation is consistent with existing public policy that supports the humane disposition of human bodily remains.