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February 21, 2025

**Committee on Health and Government Operations
Maryland House of Delegates**

6 Bladen Street
Annapolis, MD 21401

**Committee on Finance
Maryland Senate**

11 Bladen Street
Annapolis, MD 21401

Subject: Opposition to House Bill 1051 and Senate Bill 957

Dear Members of the Maryland General Assembly,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to House Bill 1051 and Senate Bill 957, which propose allowing not-for-profit organizations to obtain licensure as funeral establishments in the State of Maryland. As a funeral service professional and owner of a funeral home that has been serving our community for 142 years, I am deeply concerned about the unintended consequences these bills would have on consumer protection, fair competition, and the integrity of funeral services in our state.

The funeral service profession is highly regulated to ensure that families receive dignified and ethical care during some of the most difficult moments of their lives. Introducing not-for-profit entities into the industry creates an unfair regulatory imbalance, as these organizations would not be subject to the same financial responsibilities, tax obligations, and operational constraints as private funeral homes. Traditional funeral homes, which invest significantly in staff training, facilities, and compliance with state and federal laws, would be placed at a distinct disadvantage if these bills were enacted.

Furthermore, the inclusion of not-for-profit organizations in funeral services raises concerns about transparency, consumer choice, and accountability. Unlike traditional funeral homes, these organizations may operate with different financial structures that could limit oversight and create inconsistencies in service quality. Additionally, allowing not-for-profits to enter the industry could lead to predatory pricing models that ultimately harm small, family-owned businesses that have served Maryland families for generations.

The Maryland funeral profession has long upheld the highest standards of service, ensuring that families receive compassionate care without unnecessary financial pressures. I urge you to reject HB 1051 and SB 957 to maintain the integrity of our profession and protect Maryland consumers.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I welcome any further discussion on this matter and am available for testimony if needed.

Sincerely,



Jonathan R. Holloway

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