



www.lassahnfuneralhomes.com

Dear Madam Chair Bagnall and Members of the House Health Committee,

Re: HB 698

My name is Edgar F. Lassahn Jr. I am the owner of Lassahn Funeral Home, Inc., E.F. Lassahn Funeral Home, P.A., and Chesapeake Cremation Services, LLC, operating two funeral homes and a crematory in Maryland.

I respectfully oppose HB 698 for the following reasons:

First, the bill combines cremation, alkaline hydrolysis, and natural organic reduction under a single definition of "cremation." These are three distinct processes, each with different methods, regulatory considerations, and professional standards. They should be clearly defined separately to avoid confusion and ensure proper oversight.

Second, the bill would allow crematory operators to sell funeral merchandise and services without meeting the educational requirements, completing the mandated training, and passing the National Board Examinations required to obtain a Maryland mortuary science license. This creates an uneven regulatory standard and undermines the professional qualifications currently required to serve families in funeral practice.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the Committee to give HB 698 an unfavorable vote.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Edgar F. Lassahn Jr.

**Lassahn Funeral Home, Inc.
7401 Belair Road
Baltimore, MD 21236
410-665-2000**

**E. F. Lassahn Funeral Home, P.A.
11750 Belair Road
Kingsville, MD 21087
410-592-6100**