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January 15, 2025

People's Memorial Association Supports HB 1065 - 2025-26 Concerning family burial grounds

Dear Washington State Legislators,

People's Memorial Association strongly supports HB 1065 - 2025-26 Concerning family burial grounds. As Washington's leading advocate for funeral choice and consumer rights, we believe this bill provides residents with an important, affordable alternative to traditional funeral services.

The average cost of a direct burial in Washington reached \$3,167 in 2022. A direct burial does not include a memorial service at the grave or with the body and excludes the cost of a cemetery plot that can cost thousands more. These expenses create significant hardship for many families during an already difficult time. This bill would allow families to bury loved ones on their private property, reducing costs while enabling more personal, meaningful end-of-life practices aligned with their personal values.

As the nation's oldest memorial association, we've advocated for affordable, dignified funeral options since 1939. Our Board and Executive Director urge you to pass HB 1065.

Casey Husseman Executive Director Meghar Walker Board President

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