



TO: Assembly Committee on Health, Aging & Long-Term Care
FROM: Jodi Bloch, Director, State & Local Government Relations
DATE: Thursday, August 10, 2023
RE: Support for Legislative Council Study Committee on Uniform Death Reporting Standards legislation

Chairman Moses and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to share written remarks with you today. Children's Wisconsin would like to acknowledge Senator Ballweg and all the members for their dedicated work on the Legislative Council Study Committee. My former colleague, Karen Ordinans, who has years of experience leading a child fatality review initiative and worked to inform the Study Committee's work, and Libbe Slavin, who leads the SafeKids statewide coalition lead by Children's, will share their strong support for AB 188. I also wanted to share Children's general support and feedback on the other pieces of legislation in this package.

Children's is the region's only independent health care system dedicated solely to the health and well-being of kids. As such, we offer a wide array of programs and services inside our hospital and clinic walls and out in our communities aimed at preventing injury and keeping kids and their families healthy, well and thriving. Our highly specialized teams are there for children and their families during some of their hardest moments, including, tragically, the heartbreaking experience of losing a child. Our trauma, emergency department and critical care teams offered their feedback on the legislation outlined below.

AB 185 – Requiring use of electronic system of vital records for medical certifications of death

Our team is supportive of an electronic system for certificates of death. We believe this would improve accessibility, streamline the process and hopefully reduce redundancies. We recommend ensuring that interoperability with electronic health records be explored to facilitate efficiency and not duplicative/separate processes.

AB 186 – Recommended training for signing medical certifications of death

Children's believes this legislation would help support consistency and accuracy of death data. This would be helpful for providers new to Wisconsin as well as for standardizing education for trainees. Access to training materials may help eliminate inconsistencies and confusion when filling out forms to ensure timely completion.

AB 187 – Requiring DHS to establish and encourage best practices for coroners and medical examiners

Our team supports the development of best practices and resources to support enhancing their practice.

AB 188 – Fatality review teams

We refer to the remarks shared by Karen Ordinans and Libbe Slavin outlining our shared support for this legislation.

AB 189 – Requiring notification of any death within 24 hours

Children's reports all death within one hour, so while this would not impact our practice, agree with the support for timely, accurate data on reportable deaths.

Thank you for the opportunity to share Children's Wisconsin's support for this legislation. I am happy to work with the Children's team to answer any questions through my contact information listed below.

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