

January 2, 2007

Dr. Ross Zumwalt, M.D., Chief Medical Investigator
Office of the Medical Investigator
University of New Mexico
Albuquerque, NM

Dear Dr. Zumwalt,

At the New Mexico Board of Medical Investigators Meeting on December 4, 2006, there was discussion concerning the charging for transporting of human remains back to funeral homes from the OMI Office in Albuquerque as a means of cutting costs because of a shortage of funds.

I had proposed to you that the New Mexico Board of Thanatopractice and the New Mexico Funeral Service Association thru their lobbyist Johnny Lee Thompson could assist the OMI Office in securing funding thru the legislature. I had requested that you perhaps draft up a letter for us so that we can pursue that avenue.

The Board of Thanatopractice had its meeting on December 28, 2006 in Santa Fe and I brought up the situation to the Board. There was a general consensus that we the funeral board could send out letters to all funeral homes in New Mexico explaining the situation to them and the need for additional funding. This morning I talked to Matthew Rivera, President of the New Mexico Funeral Service Association and he was willing to put this letter on the Association's website and to get the Association lobbyist, Johnny Lee Thompson to work with the Association in this regard.

I had asked you to draft up a letter for us so that we can involve every funeral home in the State of New Mexico to contact their representatives and senators as it will definitely have an impact on the funeral homes in New Mexico. I am sure that the Thanatopractice Board administrator, Marge Tomada would be able to have this letter sent out to all funeral homes in New Mexico or else have the letter originate from the OMI Office. Whatever your decision is, please communicate with us so that we can help.

Sincerely,
Billy G. Rogers, Vice-Chairman
NM Board of Thanatopractice