

Comments on S.210

Dear Chairperson Wood,

I understand that the House Committee on Human Services plans to take testimony on S.210 on Friday. As chair of the Domestic Violence Fatality Review Commission, i am writing to let you know that the Commission supports this bill.

The Commission reviews domestic violence-related fatalities and we have heard from survivors that they would like a path to obtain autopsy records. A survivor who was the life partner, but not legally married to the decedent, wished to see the autopsy report but was not legally entitled to it. This information was an important step in their healing process. Without this change in legislation, the only way a survivor who is not legally entitled to this information can obtain a copy is to become the administrator/executive of the estate. This carries many other responsibilities that the survivor may not wish to assume. This legislation creates a clear and easy path through the probate court for survivors to obtain this information. The Commission fully supports this change.

Thank you,

Carolyn Hanson

Chair of the Domestic Violence Fatality Review Commission