



RACHAEL A. CABRAL-GUEVARA

STATE SENATOR • 19TH SENATE DISTRICT

Testimony before the Senate Committee on Health

Senator Rachael Cabral-Guevara

March 12, 2025

Hello, members of the Senate Committee on Health. Thank you for allowing me to provide testimony on Senate Bill 43, a simple proposal that will help speed up the process for pronouncing death.

I'll keep this testimony brief. Pronouncing the date, time, and place of death is an important first step in the death records process that currently can only be performed by physicians, physician assistants, hospice nurses, and a few other providers.

At least thirty-seven states allow nurses to pronounce death, and forty (including Washington, D.C.) allow nurse practitioners to sign death certificates under varying supervision. In Wisconsin, while hospice nurses can make pronouncements, advanced practice nurse prescribers (APNPs) involved with the patient's care cannot.

Allowing APNPs to make pronouncements will not only help hospitals and long-term care facilities start the death records process more efficiently, but it will also cut down delays for families and loved ones seeking closure. That is why it gained the support of the Funeral and Cremation Alliance, the Wisconsin Health Care Association, and the Wisconsin Hospital Association.

I am hopeful you will support this simple step in the right direction to help improve the efficiency of our death records system. Thank you for your time.



ROB SUMMERFIELD

STATE REPRESENTATIVE • 68th ASSEMBLY DISTRICT
MAJORITY CAUCUS CHAIR

March 12, 2025

Senator Cabral-Guevara, Chair
Members of the Senate Committee on Health

Testimony on Senate Bill 43

Chair Cabral-Guevara and Committee Members:

Thank you for providing me with the opportunity to testify at today's public hearing on Senate Bill 43. I appreciate your time and consideration of this legislation.

We are here today to improve Wisconsin's death records process by allowing advanced practice nurse prescribers (APNPs) to make death pronouncements. Currently, Wisconsin is one of just 13 states that do not grant this authority. At the same time, we do grant death pronouncement authority to hospice nurses and physician assistants. This bill corrects that inconsistency and brings us in line with the rest of the nation.

This is a common-sense update to our laws that will reduce delays and administrative burdens on healthcare providers. Hospitals, nursing homes, and long-term care facilities will benefit from a more efficient and consistent death records process. Most importantly, this change will help prevent lengthy waiting periods for grieving families as they make arrangements for their loved ones.

I ask that you join me in supporting this bill.