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ALCOR LIFE EXTENSION FOUNDATION

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Alcor's Mission: The Preservation of Individual Lives
Contact: Barry M. Aarons at (602) 253 1821

On behalf of the families of our 60 patients, hundreds of individuals around the world who have chosen to become Alcor members, dozens of licensed physicians and research professionals who have generously assisted with our protocol development over the thirty-two years of our existence, we ask that you...

...do not subject Alcor to the unnecessary, inappropriate and potentially damaging regulation proposed in HB 2637.

Proposing that the Funeral and Embalmer's Board regulate Alcor imposes restrictions that would serve to undermine the quality of service we provide. If passed, this bill will require that Alcor employ only licensed embalming personnel or their apprentices to carry out procedures. Currently, we employ a highly skilled neurosurgeon to implement our procedures, and the use of an embalmer would represent a significant reduction in the quality of care we dispense to our members. Our cryopreservation procedures are an application of experimental research protocols that are held to high medical standards, rather than cosmetic preservation the likes of which are carried out by funeral homes, embalmers, cemeteries or crematoria or operate in the same manner.

Our doors have always been wide open. Multiple authorities regularly scrutinize our legal, health and safety standards:

- We are a non-profit organization, operating under a 501(c) 3 designation as a research and educational organization; and we adhere to all associated federal requirements.
- We accept only voluntary anatomical donations, complying with all provisions of the Uniform Anatomical Gift Act (UAGA).
- Both State and Federal regulators, including the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and the Scottsdale Fire Department, oversee our operations.
- Detailed information on all our procedures is freely available on our website: www.alcor.org.
- Copies of our contracts and other legal documents are also available for download, so that individuals and their attorneys may review them prior to applying for membership.
- Public tours are conducted four times a week and are open to any person interested in our cryopreservation policies or procedures. We encourage every legislator to call us and arrange to take a tour.

What is the reason for such hasty regulation of the type proposed in this bill?

Regulation requires: the demonstration of public need; protection of the public from health and safety hazards; consumer protection from unfair competition; and consumer protection from predatory pricing. Furthermore, to regulate an industry like cryonics, you need to suppose that a set of standards exists; that regulatory officials will have access to experts familiar with those standards; and that those standards have been communicated to all related organizations. **None of these criteria have been suggested to exist, and no sunrise procedure was used.**

Assuming even one of those criteria were met, **oversight should not be undertaken by an agency that is openly hostile to our mission, objectives and operations.** Arizona Funeral Board Director Rudy Thomas was quoted by author Richard Sandomir as saying, "These companies need to be regulated or deregulated out of business." (*New York Times*, 14 Oct 2003)

Alcor Life Extension Foundation is an asset to the State of Arizona as a responsible organization engaged in progressive medical and scientific research. Our mission is the preservation of individual human life. We ask that our efforts not be hindered by unnecessary and inappropriate regulation under a Board with demonstrated hostility toward us.