

Joint Legislative Budget Committee

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE

LEGISLATIVE ANALYST
GABRIEL PETEK

CHAIR
SCOTT WIENER

SENATE

JOSH BECKER
BRIAN DAHLE
MARÍA ELENA DURAZO
SUSAN TALAMANTES EGGMAN
ROGER W. NIELLO
STEPHEN C. PADILLA
RICHARD D. ROTH

VICE CHAIR
JESSE GABRIEL

ASSEMBLY

STEVE BENNETT
VINCE FONG
Dr. COREY JACKSON
JIM PATTERSON
SHARON QUIRK-SILVA
AVELINO VALENCIA
Dr. AKILAH WEBER

April 25, 2024

Mr. Joe Stephenshaw, Director
Department of Finance
1021 O Street, Suite 3110
Sacramento, California 95814

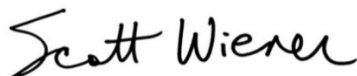
Dear Mr. Stephenshaw:

In a letter dated April 9, 2024, you notified the Joint Legislative Budget Committee, pursuant to Item 9840-001-0494, Provisions 3 and 6 in the *2023 Budget Act*, of a request from the Cemetery and Funeral Bureau (Bureau) to provide \$525,000 for unanticipated costs associated with the terms of a recent legal settlement.

In January 2024, the Bureau entered into a settlement agreement with Full Circle of Living and Dying. Originally, the Bureau cited Full Circle and its doulas for website advertising and for operating as an unlicensed funeral establishment. In addition, the court found that the Bureau had also threatened to cite Full Circle for acting as an unlicensed funeral director when they provided specified “hands-on” services. Full Circle disputed the Bureau’s determination and filed a lawsuit. At summary judgement, the court determined Full Circle could not be cited as an unlicensed funeral establishment, but it reserved for trial whether Full Circle could be cited as a funeral director. In the final settlement, the parties agreed that specific activities performed by the doulas do not fall within the statutory requirements that require licensure under Business and Professions Code section 7615 when conducted consistent with specified conditions. In addition, the parties agreed that the state would reimburse Full Circle for attorney fees in the amount of \$525,000. The settlement resolves all aspects of the case.

I have reviewed the notification letter and concur with the request. In addition, I approve your request to waive the remainder of the 30-day review period, in order to allow the Bureau to pay the settlement by May 17, 2024.

Sincerely,



Scott Wiener
Chair

cc: Members of the Joint Legislative Budget Committee