

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Fiscal Generic Mailbox](#)
Subject: Re: Public Comment for Monday, January 27th 2025 for Melissa Chanselle-Hary
Date: Monday, January 27, 2025 9:26:46 AM

[REDACTED]

I forgot to mention that I am available for follow-up questions regarding death care if any of the members would like more information.

On Mon, Jan 27, 2025 at 9:16 AM Melissa Chanselle-Hary [REDACTED] wrote:

Melissa Chanselle-Hary
[REDACTED]

Owner/Founder: Sacred Transits

Good Morning. I am Melissa Chanselle-Hary. I am a death doula in Reno/Sparks/Northern NV area. I am a member of the DOULA CO-OP of Nevada and serve on the Board of Directors. I am not here today as a representative of the CO-OP, though I have their full support.

As a death doula, I support and empower my clients during one of life's most important experiences. I ensure they have all the information and know the different available choices. I provide social and emotional wrap-around services that are lacking in the systems of care that we have now. I offer support planning for the end of life, care, and support during acute illness or active death, and serve as a resource in grief and bereavement. Based on my work in the last few years I can tell you there is an acute need for more robust care at the end of life. In my conversations with hospice organizations, skilled nursing facilities, community health workers, insurance brokers, and others there is a consensus that more is needed.

Nevada's senior population is growing rapidly. This trend is expected to continue, and the percentage of seniors in the state will increase significantly. In 2027 and beyond, the challenges will be acute. The United States will have the highest number of seniors (to date) without children to care for them. Over the last 200 years, death has become medicalized. The costs related to care for the dying have increased exponentially while the accessibility and quality have decreased, and this doesn't even address the emotional costs of grief and bereavement.

I am here today to plant seeds for the future. A future where death care and support are reimbursable by Medicaid, Medicare, and private insurances. There is a business case for providing basic end-of-life support. None of us are getting out of here alive – the good news is this is something that can benefit everyone.