

04.26.25 POLICY PROPOSAL 4

Title: Replace Coroner System with Medical Examiner

Full Name*

Thomas Richard Beaver

Designation*

Physician

Are you submitting on behalf of a county medical society, specialty society, or other member?*

No

If YES, please indicate the name of the county medical society, specialty society, or other member(s) for which you represent.

(If NO, you may skip.)

Submission / Idea*

The Coroner system in South Carolina is antiquated and provides sub-optimal care.

Evidence / Support for Proposal*

It is an established fact that a Medical Examiner system with Forensic Pathologists performing the duties of death investigation and death certification is superior to lay coroners

Requested Action: What action is required to achieve this idea?

(i.e. Enact legislation, have a state agency review an issue, enact an SCMA policy statement on a topic, or other action?)*

Enact legislation to replace the Coroner system with a Medical Examiner system similar to the one in Florida. See Florida Statute 406.

Why is the Requested Action important?*

The current system does not provide a robust system for determining the cause of death.

If there are additional details not addressed above that you would like to share, please provide them here.

(If you feel that the above information is sufficient, you may skip.)

In Florida the state is divided into districts and each district gets a medical examiner appointed by the governor to a three year term. The District Medical Examiner must be

a board certified Forensic Pathologist with a medical license. The system is more efficient because the medical examiner can perform autopsies as well as scene investigations and has more comprehensive training and knowledge for determining the cause of death.