

Protect Workers. Preserve Essential Funeral Services. *No IRIS Act (S.623 / H.R.1415)*

The Issue: Science-Based Regulation Matters

Funeral directors are small business owners, licensed professionals and essential service providers in every community in America who rely on formaldehyde for embalming. We support responsible, science-based regulation that protects worker safety, public health and the environment.

However, the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Integrated Risk Information System (IRIS) has produced chemical assessments that lack transparency, rely on outdated or disputed science, and carry significant regulatory consequences. IRIS is not authorized by Congress and was never designed to be a regulatory tool, but its findings often drive EPA decisions. Because the IRIS formaldehyde assessment has been criticized for relying on older or disputed science and lacking transparency, its use creates uncertainty for small businesses, including funeral homes, which depend on formaldehyde-based embalming products.

The *No IRIS Act* ensures that federal chemical regulations are based on sound science and clear congressional authority.

The Problem in Simple Terms

IRIS assessments:

- Are not authorized directly by Congress
- Lack transparency and accountability
- May rely on outdated or incomplete scientific data
- Can influence broader regulatory decisions under other statutes

Even when certain uses are excluded under one law, IRIS findings can:

- Influence other EPA rulemakings
- Inform OSHA enforcement
- Be used by state regulators
- Impact manufacturers and suppliers

Small businesses cannot operate effectively under shifting, unclear regulatory standards.

Why This Matters to Funeral Service

Formaldehyde is an essential tool in funeral service. It is critical for:

- Preservation of the human body
- Allowing families to view their loved ones
- Delayed burials, including military honors at Arlington National Cemetery
- Public health protections during transportation and services

Funeral professionals use formaldehyde safely under strict workplace safety standards. Yet flawed IRIS assessments have created regulatory uncertainty that could:

- Disrupt supply chains
- Increase costs
- Limit availability of embalming products
- Harm small businesses and manufacturers

This creates uncertainty for funeral homes, and manufacturers and distributors of formaldehyde.

Real-World Impact on Grieving Families and Funeral Directors

If formaldehyde-based products become restricted or unavailable:

- Families may lose the opportunity for viewing and traditional services.
- Veterans awaiting burial may face delays.
- Funeral homes may face higher costs passed on from suppliers.
- Small manufacturers may struggle to comply with unworkable standards.

Funeral directors are not asking for deregulation. We are asking for regulation that is:

- Transparent
- Accountable
- Based on the best available science
- Developed through proper statutory authority

What the *No IRIS Act* Does

The *No IRIS Act* would prevent EPA from using IRIS assessments to:

- Develop or finalize regulations
- Carry out enforcement or permitting actions
- Inform air toxin assessments or mapping tools

This bill ensures that chemical regulations are developed through authorized statutory processes with appropriate scientific review and accountability.

This Is About Balance

We support worker safety, public health and responsible environmental stewardship.

But we also support regulatory certainty, small business stability and science-based policymaking.

The *No IRIS Act* restores that balance.

The Ask

We respectfully urge you to:

- ✓ Support S.623 / H.R.1415
- ✓ Cosponsor the *No IRIS Act*
- ✓ Ensure chemical regulations are based on a transparent, congressionally authorized process

Funeral homes serve families during life's most vulnerable moments. Regulatory uncertainty should not jeopardize essential services.

Protect workers. Protect small businesses. Protect families' ability to honor their loved ones.

Sponsors

Sen. John Kennedy (R-LA); Rep. Glenn Grothman (R-WI)

Committee Jurisdiction

Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works; House Committee on Energy and Commerce, Agriculture, and Transportation and Infrastructure

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