

MEMORANDUM

TO: Chairman Phil Mendelson
FROM: Councilmember Christina Henderson
RE: Notice of Intent to Move an Amendment at the September 22, 2026 Legislative Meeting
DATE: September 17, 2026

I intend to move the following amendment at the September 22, 2026 Legislative Meeting:

- Henderson Amendment 1 to B26-0547, the Posthumous Care Modernization Amendment Act of 2026

This amendment addresses concerns raised by DC Health after 1st reading on Bill 26-0547 that the bill's current provisions defining cremation and authorizing alkaline hydrolysis would create implementation challenges for the Office of Vital Records within DC Health. Current District law prohibits the transportation, interment, or other disposition of human remains without a permit from DC Health, but excludes cremated ashes from the definition of "human remains". This allows individuals to keep ashes of loved ones within their homes without penalty. This current exemption, however, does not include the ash-like products produced by alkaline hydrolysis. The amendment would add an exemption for the products of alkaline hydrolysis to the definition of "human remains".

Further, current District law uses the term "resomation" instead of its synonym "alkaline hydrolysis" within the Vital Records portion of the D.C. Code, which will create confusion once B26-0547 adds the latter term in the Funeral Services portion of the Code. The amendment therefore replaces references to "resomation" with "alkaline hydrolysis".

The final, filed amendment is attached. Please contact Committee on Health Director, Ona Balkus, obalkus@dccouncil.gov with any questions.