

Lesley Witter, MPA, CAE
Senior Vice President, Advocacy
National Funeral Directors Association (NFDA)

Lesley Witter serves as Senior Vice President of Advocacy for the National Funeral Directors Association (NFDA), where she leads the association's legislative, regulatory, and public policy initiatives. With more than 25 years of experience in government relations, advocacy, public policy, and association management, she is recognized as a leading advocate for the funeral service profession.

Since joining NFDA in 2007, Ms. Witter has directed the association's advocacy agenda before Congress and federal agencies. She has worked extensively on legislation and regulations affecting funeral service, veterans' burial benefits, emergency preparedness, workplace safety, and public health policy. She has represented NFDA before Congress on multiple occasions, providing written and oral testimony to the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs.

Among her notable legislative achievements, Ms. Witter led NFDA's advocacy efforts supporting passage of the Corey Shea Act (P.L. 111-275), which grants parents of deceased veterans the right to be buried with their child when the veteran has no surviving spouse or minor children, and the BRAVE Act (P.L. 116-315), which modernized veterans' burial benefits to ensure equal treatment for veterans regardless of where they die.

As NFDA's principal liaison to federal and state government agencies, Ms. Witter provides expertise on final disposition, funeral customs and practices, embalming, cremation, mass-fatality response, and funeral service operations. She regularly works with agencies including the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), Department of Defense (DoD), Department of Homeland Security (DHS), Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA).

During the COVID-19 pandemic, Ms. Witter served as a key advisor to federal and state officials, helping secure recognition of funeral service professionals as essential workers and supporting the creation of FEMA's COVID-19 Funeral Assistance Program.

Prior to joining NFDA, Ms. Witter served as a lobbyist for the American Chiropractic Association, where she helped secure passage of federal legislation, including the law establishing the first permanent chiropractic benefit within the Department of Veterans Affairs healthcare system. She earned a Bachelor of Arts in Government and International Relations and a Master of Public Administration from George Mason University and is a Certified Association Executive (CAE).