PETITION FOR NEW LEGISLATION RE:
THE OKLAHOMA STATE MEDICAL EXAMINER'S OFFICE

By our signatures below, we affirm we are of lawful age and citizens of the State of Oklahoma, and as taxpayers demand that the following be passed into law to create efficiency, accountability, and checks and balances in the Oklahoma State Medical Examiner's Office:

1. The Board of MedicoLegal Investigations shall be comprised of members appointed by the Governor of the State of Oklahoma. **Currently the Board Members are designated by statute and answer to no one. This has created complete lack of accountability and fostered an atmosphere conducive to scandal, incompetence, "secret meetings," and favor positions in a tax-funded Agency.**
2. The Board shall meet once monthly. Any family who questions the determination of the pathologist who handled their deceased loved one's case may make written application to the Board stating the nature of their complaint. The Board shall provide families due process and a full and fair hearing. Currently the Board has failed to address family member's concerns. **We demand the MedicoLegal Board supervise the ME's Office and hold employees accountable. Likewise, board members shall be accountable to the Governor as appointees of the Governor.**
3. Should the Board, by a *quorum* vote, find that a pathologist has made an erroneous determination, their finding shall be binding on the pathologist and the error shall be corrected with undue delay. Families may appeal from the Board's decision directly to the District Court of Oklahoma County. **Currently there is no Judicial Oversight. Judicial Oversight is desperately needed.**
4. The Chief Medical Examiner shall be selected by the Board, but appointed only upon approval by the Governor, and shall only be terminated from his/her position for cause. The Chief Medical Examiner shall employ other pathologists and investigators, all of whom must have proper qualifications, training, experience and certifications. Currently death investigators are sorely lacking in training and education, resulting in murders being mislabeled "suicide" or "unknown." Pathologists are lacking certifications resulting in a now-Unaccredited ME's Office. **Poorly trained and educated employees make mistakes that endanger the public. We demand change.**
5. Non-physician "administrative" employee positions shall not be superior to, or infringe upon, the Chief Medical Examiner's responsibilities in hiring, firing, and and/or medical determinations.
6. The Medical Examiner's Office, while aiding law enforcement agencies in MedicoLegal Findings, shall be independent from any and all law enforcement agencies. **This will prevent a "rubber stamp" ME's Office which allows crime to go unprosecuted when local law enforcement has conducted an inadequate investigation or is compromised by conflict of interest. Likewise, it will prevent unjust prosecutions in cases where the ME's Office "rubber stamps" a prosecution that is lacking in merit in order to please law enforcement or avoid discrediting them. A completely independent investigation by the ME's Office will result in truth prevailing in all cases.**
7. There shall be transparency in the ME's Office. All reports and findings shall be released to the next of kin, upon request, for any death investigated by the ME's Office. **Mistakes are covered up in secrecy. We demand honesty and accountability.**

SIGNATURE	PRINTED NAME	COUNTY OF RESIDENCE	DATE

THE CHANDA TURNER REFORM BILL
c/o Jaye Mendros
105 N. Hudson, Suite 540
Oklahoma City, OK 73102

(Petitions may also be faxed to 405.605.8640
or scanned and emailed: jayemendros@cox.net)