

**Written Testimony
In Support of SB 751
An Act to Establish an Organ Donor Registry and Public Awareness Fund**

April 1, 2015

Good afternoon Chairman Beyer and honorable members of the Senate Business and Transportation Committee – I am Scott Nance and I am here to testify on behalf of Senate Bill 751, an act to establish the Organ Donor Registry and Public Awareness Fund.

I would like to actually start by asking each of you to think about a few questions. How would you feel if you were told that your child or your loved one was fighting a rare medical condition and that if they didn't get an organ transplant fairly soon they would die? Conversely, what if you were told that a person you love had just been in a tragic accident and that despite all of the doctor's efforts they were not able to restore the blood flow to your loved one's brain? Would you recognize and understand what that means? And in the midst of this tragedy would you be able to make a life changing decision allowing your precious loved one to share organs that could save the lives of total strangers?

On August 3rd 2004 I found myself facing that very decision, sitting in an intensive care unit holding the hand of my 16 year old daughter who had been in a terrible accident and was now brain dead and wrestling with whether to allow her to be an organ donor.

Thankfully, we knew Carrie's wishes to be a donor. Her grandmother had been a cornea donor and at her health teacher's encouragement, Carrie had done a report on the subject.

Carrie was able to save 4 other people's lives and made a huge impact in helping me survive her loss. Had it not been for her teacher's encouragement to do the report, I doubt that I could have made that choice given the extreme emotional distress of facing her loss.

I began volunteering for DLNW in 2006 in the hopes of helping young people make their own educated choice about becoming a donor. Since then, I've received countless letters of appreciation from students who didn't really know how to respond to the question asked of them at the DMV. Many of them make the decision to become a donor after hearing Carrie's story.

I wish that I could speak to every student in the state. But I am just one volunteer in Portland. All students, of every background, in towns big and small deserve the education required to help them make intelligent, informed decisions on this topic.

The revenue earned from this voluntary check box would be used to do just that! The revenue earned from this fund would allow us to significantly expand Donate Life Northwest's ability to reach and educate Oregonians about anatomical donation and the option to join the donor registry. Additional revenue would allow Donate Life Northwest to expand its student and community education programs, advertising and awareness efforts, and other campaigns needed to further our vision of ensuring that all people in Oregon and SW Washington who need a transplant, receive one.

The majority of surrounding states, including Washington, California, Idaho, Montana, and Utah have successfully passed similar measures, generating significant dollars for donation and transplantation awareness efforts in their respective states.

I urge you to vote to pass SB 751. Passage will empower our fellow Oregonians to make a big difference in the lives of those waiting for transplants as well as their families.

Thank you for your consideration.

Signed,

Scott Nance
52819 NW Five Peak Terrace
Scappoose, OR 97056