

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

My name is Tracy Hoyle and I am a native Oregonian and currently live in Sandy, Oregon. I would like to thank Senator Beyer and the honorable members of the Senate Business & Transportation Committee for allowing me to testify on behalf of Donate Life & Senate Bill 751.

I am very passionate about this topic because organ, eye & tissue donation has touched my family in different ways. In 1986, when I was only 15, my Mom passed away from a brain aneurysm. Even though I was devastated with her death I was comforted in the knowledge that she was able to help others in her death as she did in her life. My mom was able donate one of her kidneys and 2 of her corneas.

I went on to graduate from high school, college and get married never thinking that organ donation would ever touch my family again. Well, that all changed in March of 2000 when I was listed on the heart transplant list after what the doctors believe was a virus that had settled on my heart and subsequently weakened it. 1 month later on April 12, 2000 I received my life saving transplant thanks to my unselfish donor. I recovered quite quickly and 6 weeks after my transplant I discovered that I was pregnant (which they told me I should not do). I had a great pregnancy and delivered a very healthy son, Trent, on Feb 5, 2001 only 9 month and 3 weeks after my transplant.

Trent is a very active young man and I am extremely lucky to have been able to have him and see him grow up. In early 2012 I wasn't sure if I would be able to see him get to his teenage years though. I was in heart failure again as well as kidney failure. It took a little while this time to get me on the transplant list and I was finally listed in May. In Sept of 2012 I was hospitalized and I told I would not be going home unless I received my transplant. After waiting 43 days, mainly in ICU, I was wondering if that time was even going to come, but it did and on October 22, 2012 I received both my heart and kidney transplant from the same amazing donor. I have recovered quite well again and completed 2 half marathons in 2013, competed in the Portland to Coast race and many 5K & 10K races. I am one of the lucky ones though.

I have been volunteering with Donate Life since 2001 and love every minute of it. I feel like if I can change just one person's mind every time I give a presentation regarding the need for organ, eye and tissue donation, I have honored each of my donors. My favorite group to speak with is high school students because they are at such an important time in their lives. Some have just received their driver's licenses or permits and have been asked if they would like to be a donor. Most of them don't even realize what it actually means. I am able to let them know the importance of being a donor and what it really means to them and their family, as well as all of the people on the wait list.

Despite my involvement with Donate Life along with many other volunteers, there is still a very large gap between organ availability and need. In 2014, 36 Oregonians died while waiting on the transplant list. In addition to those 36 people, there were 62 who became too sick while waiting that they had to be removed from the transplant list. The average wait list in Oregon is over 2 years.

So as you can see, there is still so much work to be done, but because of the modest budget of Donate Life, we are not able to reach everyone. Revenue earned from this voluntary check box would be used to help us expand the student and community education programs, advertising and awareness as well as other campaigns that are needed to help ensure that all people in Oregon and SW Washington, who need a transplant, will receive one. I encourage you to vote to pass SB751. The majority of states, including Washington, California, Idaho, Montana and Utah have successfully passed similar measures, generating significant dollars for donation and transplantation awareness, it's time that we join these states!

Thank you once again for your time and I urge you to vote yes on Senate Bill 751.

Tracy Hoyle
Donate Life Volunteer and Heart and Kidney Recipient
37626 Reich Ct.
Sandy, OR 97055