



# Pacific Northwest Transplant Bank

*"To Save, Enhance, and Heal Lives  
Through Organ Donation and Transplantation"*

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## **In Support of SB 751**

### **An Act to Establish an Organ Donor Registry and Public Awareness Fund**

**March 31, 2015**

Senator Beyer and honorable members of the Senate Business and Transportation Committee, my name is Michael Seely, Executive Director of the Pacific Northwest Transplant Bank (PNTB). I write you today to offer our organization's full support of Senate Bill 751, an act to establish the Organ Donor Registry and Public Awareness Fund.

PNTB is the federally designated organ procurement organization (OPO) serving Oregon, Southwest Washington, and Western Idaho. It is part of the United Network for Organ Sharing's Region 6, which includes all of Oregon, Washington, Idaho, Montana, and Alaska. We serve some 82 hospitals in the PNTB service area working with donor families and hospital staff to facilitate the gift of organ donation.

PNTB is fortunate to work alongside Donate Life Northwest, who remains a leader in the United States in the efforts to educate the public and to continue the management of a strong and successful donor registry. In addition, we have benefited from a committed legislative body in Oregon that, over the years, has historically adopted some of the most progressive approaches and language with regard to Oregon's Anatomical Gift Act. But the work at hand is far from finished. Today, over 123,000 people nationally are on the waiting list for a lifesaving organ transplant. Sadly, on average, more than 20 people die each day waiting for a transplant. Passage of SB 751 will create important new opportunities to reach and educate more Oregonians about this great need. The voluntary revenue created by SB 751 will greatly enhance the State's registry of committed donors. This generosity will go a long way in saving more lives and reducing the deaths of those on the local, regional, and national waiting lists.

I encourage Oregon to join our neighbors, Washington, California, Idaho, Montana, and Utah, who have successfully passed similar measures, generating significant dollars for donation and transplantation awareness efforts in their respective states.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this written testimony. Passage of SB 751 will empower our fellow Oregonians to make a big difference in the lives of those waiting for transplants as well as their families.

Most Sincerely,

Michael Seely  
Executive Director