



# Pacific Northwest Transplant Bank

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

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## HB 2839

Mr. Chairman and members of the committee:

My name is Mike Seely, and I am the Executive Director of the Pacific Northwest Transplant Bank, the federally designated organ procurement organization serving Oregon, southern Washington, and southwestern Idaho. I have 32 years of experience with organ donation and transplantation, and I have served as an advisor at the federal level with additional service on the Board of Directors of the United Network of Organ Sharing (UNOS). Thank you for the opportunity to comment on HB 2839.

I have concern that the structure of this bill, as written, is significantly incongruent with its possible intent. The bill references the Oregon Anatomical Gift Act and specifically, the role of organ, eye, and tissue procurement organizations. It is also assumed, as written, that these organizations have an implicit responsibility for determining the selection of a transplant recipient. To be clear, these organizations have no role in patient selection. For example, organ procurement organizations are explicitly excluded from this role as prescribed by the National Organ Transplant Act (NOTA), and subject to rules of the Organ Procurement Transplant Network (OPTN), which governs the allocation of all donated organs in the United States. These organ allocation algorithms are firmly based in the ethical principles of justice and utility; essentially, the principles of what is fair and what is the best use of a gifted organ. The balance of these two principles has been finely tuned over decades of thoughtful policy development, with a strong foundation of public participation. The procurement group does not select the patient; the allocation system, in concert with transplant professionals, bears this serious responsibility. Because of the ongoing, severe shortage of organs, and the fact that an average of 24 of the 118,600 waiting recipients on the national waiting list who will die today waiting for a transplant, the allocation system is designed to avoid discrimination while ensuring the stewardship of each donated organ.

In light of the fact that organ, eye, and tissue organizations are not involved in the selection of recipients, and the fact that transplant professionals conduct services and programs under national policies and oversight, I am opposed to this bill due to the potential inadvertent harm it could cause to donation and transplantation in the State of Oregon.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony.