

**Testimony**  
**In Support of HB 4019**  
**Before the House Health Care Committee**  
**By Leslie Brock**  
Monday, February 5, 2018

Good afternoon Chair Greenlick and members of the house Health Care Committee— I am Leslie Brock, Executive Director of Donate Life Northwest and I am here to testify on behalf of House Bill 4019, to establish the second week of April each year to be “Organ, Eye and Tissue Donor Appreciation Week”.

As the sole anatomical donation education agency in Oregon, Donate Life Northwest has the responsibility to broadly and adequately educate the public about donation and transplantation so that all Oregonians have the knowledge needed to make an informed decision. We work on behalf of local organ, eye and tissue procurement organizations and transplant centers to grow the donor registry for the state, and ultimately save lives. We also work on behalf of thousands of people like Jarod Doerner, whose lives have been saved by transplant.

House Bill 4019 would establish a permanent and inspiring remembrance and thank you to organ, eye and tissue donors throughout the state of Oregon from the previous year.

Every April a similar event occurs at the Washington state capital in Olympia. Donor families are invited to attend a ceremony with the governor honoring all organ donors from the state of Washington. It is called the Gift of Life Award. The event is hosted by LifeCenter NW and includes a gathering of families in a magnificent setting, with all the dignity and gravitas afforded by this personal thank you from the governor to these families. The event includes a short program of thanks from the donation agencies precedes a speech by the governor, where he acknowledges the gifts these people have made, and the lives saved. Then each donor family is given a certificate or award on behalf of their loved one, along with a long stem rose. Donor families are so proud to be in the presence of their governor, and so moved that he or she would take the time to acknowledge them personally.

Each year, hundreds of Oregonians’ lives are saved and healed by the generous gifts of organ, eye and tissue donors.

I urge you to support House Bill 4019. Passage will empower our fellow Oregonians to make a big difference in the lives of those waiting for transplants, and honor those who made the ultimate gift of life through donation.

Thank you for your consideration, and I’m happy to answer any questions you may have.

Leslie Brock  
Executive Director, Donate Life Northwest