

HB 2622: ORGAN, EYE & TISSUE DONOR DMV CHECK OFF

Prepared by the Office of Representative Julie Fahey · 1/28/2019

BACKGROUND

More than 117,000 people in the United States are in need of a lifesaving organ transplant, and, on average, another person is added to the waiting list every 10 minutes. Twenty-two Americans die each day while waiting for a lifesaving organ transplant. *A single organ, eye, or tissue donor can save and heal more than 75 individuals.*

Public education about organ, eye and tissue donations is crucial because more than 800 people in Oregon await an organ transplant, and hundreds more await a tissue or cornea transplant. In Oregon, average wait times can be as long as 3 years. In 2018, Donate Life Northwest (DLNW) reached over 28,000 community members through events and presentations, but their ability to provide education about organ donation is limited. Additional funding would allow education efforts to be expanded and would increase the number of individuals registered as donors.

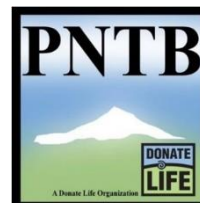
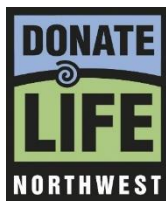
To date, 36 states, including western states such as Washington, California, Idaho, Nevada, and Utah, have provided funding for these types of activities by implementing measures to allow individuals to donate to a public awareness fund at the DMV.

SOLUTION

HB 2622 would do four things:

- Establish the Organ Donor Registry and Public Awareness Fund, which would be used to conduct public education and outreach related to organ and tissue donation
- Add a *voluntary* check off for DMV license and ID applications and renewals, with a minimum donation of \$3
- Include information about financial donations during online vehicle registration renewals, and provide a link to donate
- Allow ODOT to retain funds needed to cover expenses of collecting and transferring funds

Based on results in other states, it is estimated that 10% of DMV patrons would contribute to the fund, generating \$150,000-200,000 annually for DLNW to educate the public about organ shortages and the need for more registered donors.



Portland VA Health
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