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**Written Testimony  
In Support of HB 2622  
January 29, 2019**

**An Act to Establish an Organ Donor Awareness Fund**

Good afternoon, House Health Care Committee,  
I am Maria Fernanda Filizola. I live in NW Portland, and I am here to testify on behalf of Donate Life Northwest, in support of House Bill 2622.

In 2011, my daughter's father received his second kidney transplant. For me, it was a new experience. I didn't know a lot about kidneys, dialysis, or transplants. I had to research and ask questions to learn more about kidney failure. It was not easy because English is my second language. With time, I gained more knowledge, and I realized how hard – and how scary – it is for people going through the process of having a transplant.

After this, I wanted to become a volunteer with Donate Life Northwest. They had a multicultural program, and it was the perfect place for me to interact with other people from the Latino community to help them learn more about organ, eye and tissue donation. Many of the people I interacted with had a lack of resources and knowledge about organ, eye, and tissue donation because of the language barrier. I saw the opportunity to help – to share my experience with others and help ease their burden.

I am now a staff member at Donate Life Northwest, and my purpose has not changed. To me, the most important thing is to continue helping the people of my community who want to learn and who have the desire to give the gift of life. Today, I can truly see the impact our outreach and education is having on the Latino community. By the passing legislation to create a Donor Awareness Fund, we could reach even more people from all walks of life.

I urge you to vote to pass HB 2622. This will make a great difference in the lives of Latino community members waiting for transplants, as well as their families who are there to support them though the transplant process.

Thank you for your consideration and your time.

Maria Fernanda Filizola  
Donate Life Northwest, Latino Outreach Coordinator