

PO Box 532 Portland Oregon 97207 503.494.7888 1.800.452.1369 www.donatelifenw.org

**Testimony
In Support of HB 2622
Establishes Organ Donor Registry and Public Awareness Fund**

January 29, 2019

Good afternoon Chair Greenlick and members of the House Committee on Health Care– I am Leslie Brock, Executive Director of Donate Life Northwest, and I am here to testify on behalf of House Bill 2622, an act to establish the Organ Donor Registry and Public Awareness Fund.

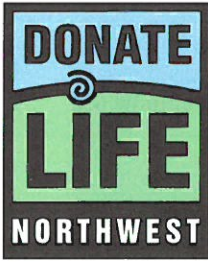
Donate Life Northwest has had a robust partnership with Oregon’s DMV since 1975. 44 years ago, Donate Life NW, then the Oregon Donor Program, was formed from a collaboration among area organ and tissue procurement agencies. That same year, the Oregon Legislature passed a law allowing Oregonians to indicate their wishes to be a donor on their driver’s license. That first year, 60,000 Oregonians added the “D” code to their driver’s license. Now, 40 years later, the number of registered donors in the state has grown to over 2.5 million. About 99 percent of those registered through the DMV.

Despite the hard work of Donate Life NW, along with our member programs, community partners and hundreds of volunteers, there is a large and growing gap between organ, eye, and tissue availability and need. Nationally, there are over 113,000 people waiting for an organ transplant. Thousands more wait for the chance to see again or to live without pain through a cornea, bone, or soft tissue transplant. Every 10 minutes, another person is added to the waitlist nationally, and 22 people die waiting every day. In Oregon, average wait times can be as long as 3 years.

In 2018, Donate Life Northwest staff and volunteers participated in events and presentations reaching over 28,000 students, educators, healthcare professionals, and people in the general community. While we are proud of these accomplishments, our staff size and geographical reach is limited by a modest operating budget.

Revenue earned from this voluntary check box would be used to significantly expand Donate Life Northwest’s ability to reach and educate Oregonians about anatomical donation and the option to join the donor registry. Additional revenue would allow Donate Life Northwest to expand its student and community education programs, awareness efforts, and other campaigns needed to further our vision of ensuring that all people in Oregon and SW Washington who need a transplant, receive one.

We can save the lives of hundreds of Oregonians every year by expanding our programs, allowing us to reach every corner of the state.



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36 states, including Washington, California, Idaho, and Utah have successfully passed similar measures, generating significant dollars for donation and transplantation awareness efforts in their respective states.

Our strong partnership with the Department of Motor Vehicles has made it possible for millions of Oregonians to support the lifesaving gifts of organ, eye, and tissue donation. With the DMV's support, we have created one of the most successful donor registries in the nation. Oregonians already see the DMV as the primary avenue to register as a donor, making a voluntary contribution option a natural fit for those people to help support our efforts to save more lives in the state.

I urge you to vote to pass HB 2622. Passage will empower our fellow Oregonians to make a big difference in the lives of those waiting for transplants as well as their families.

Thank you for your consideration.

Signed,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Leslie Brock".

Leslie Brock
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