

Dear Chair Greenlick and Members of the House Health Care Committee,

My name is Jarod Doerner, I am a 17 year-old high school student from Eugene, I am an Eagle Scout, and I am a heart transplant recipient. I would like to ask for your support for HB2622. Expanding organ donor education would help every Oregon resident make an informed decision about being a donor. I want everyone to become a donor. I feel that it is a personal choice that requires thought and education. Allowing residents contribute to organ donor education programs in our state would have the effect of expanding the awareness about the great need for organ donors in Oregon. One organ/tissue donor can help more nearly 100 people with live saving organ transplants, give them the gift of sight, or improve their quality of life with skin and tissue grafts. Every 10 minutes a new name is added the the organ transplant waiting list. The waiting list far exceeds the donor list. We need more donors. By expanding education, we will expand the number of donors.

When I went to get my driver's permit I was asked if I wanted to sign up to become an "anatomical" donor. I didn't even know what that word meant. The lady at the DMV then explained it to me. I had not heard of that term before, and I had already had my transplant. I answered a lot of questions in my health class regarding my transplant and what it meant to me, and my life. Very few of my classmates, and some of my teachers, understood what a organ transplant entails. When 15/16 year-olds go to get their driving permits they are asked if they want to be a donor, but we don't get much information about it, unless we do the research before hand. I feel that we need to expand organ donation education to be part of the high school curriculum. Donate Life NW, and other organizations, are doing a great job of educating the public on what it means to be an organ donor, but more needs to be done.

A complete stranger gave me the gift of life. Their choice to become an organ donor saved my life (and five other critical patients). I am grateful to my donor and their family, and I by expanding education, I hope that many more lives can be saved, like mine.

Thank you for your consideration.  
Jarod Doerner  
Eugene, Oregon