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Chair Monnes Anderson, Vice-Chair Linthicum, and members of the Health Care Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on SB 796. This bill will prohibit insurance discrimination based on a person's status as an organ donor, and ensure access to job-protected leave for organ donation.

My name is Aimee Adelman, this legislation is important to me not only because I am the Director of Education and Outreach at Donate Life Northwest, but also because I am a two-time kidney recipient. I'm very lucky to be here today because of the generosity of my donors. My first donor was my Dad and my second was the family of a deceased donor. There are many people who are not as lucky as me. Right now there are over 850 Oregonians waiting for their lifesaving transplant. By passing this legislation, Oregon can help to ease the process of living donation and help to reduce the number of people waiting.

Our responsibility at Donate Life Northwest is to provide comprehensive education to the public about donation and transplantation so that all Oregonians have the knowledge needed to make informed decisions, including the choice to provide a living donation.

Just yesterday I was with a group of people who are waiting for kidney transplants. We talked about ways to share their stories and how to find living kidney donors. I shared stories of other donors and what has motivated them to donate to give much needed hope that they too can find a living donor. I truly believe that more protections for living donors would move us forward and save more lives.

We believe that anything that prohibits donors from making that lifesaving decision can be devastating to the hundreds waiting in Oregon. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on SB 796.

We urge you to pass Senate Bill 796 and help Oregonians save lives.

Sincerely,

Aimee Adelman
Director of Education and Outreach