

**Written Testimony
In Support of HB 2506: Establishing for Organ Donor Registry and Public Awareness**

March 5th, 2021

Dear Senator Beyer, Representative McLain, and members of the Joint Committee on Transportation,

I am Jaime Flores, an active volunteer at Donate Life Northwest and proud member of the Latino community, living in the suburbs of Portland, Oregon.

23 years ago, my one and only brother, Ramon, was diagnosed with kidney failure. The moment I found out was a moment of mixed emotions. At the time the doctor told me that my brother was sick, he could die, and I had a high probability of saving his life in my hands. Sudden moments like these call for quick actions and even though I had absolutely no knowledge about organ donation, I knew I had to make the effort to save my brother's life and let my mother continue to see both of her sons living healthy and long lives. 21 year-old me committed to donating a kidney to my then 24 year-old brother and hoped for a second chance at life for him. Today, we both live healthy and happily with families of our own.

I believe in second chances - especially when it comes to life - which is why I also believe in the importance of education and awareness on the donation of organs, eye, and tissue. In my experience, I was lucky to be compatible enough and make an effort to donate a kidney to my brother, but not everyone has the same luck. The help of a complete stranger can save a life.

There's an important component to this bill, and that is that it would help expand education programs more to Latino and other diverse communities. This is an opportunity to expand the minds of more people to consider organ, eye, or tissue donation as a part of their lives. Donate Life Northwest's multicultural program has already been able to reach people of different communities in an effort to support people in need of a donation, and was actually the first place I began my journey in this organization.

With the passing of Drivers License for All, there's a wider range of people from the Latino community that are now able to join the donor registry and thus give hope to the people in need of a lifesaving organ.

For this and many more reasons, it's important to address the contributions of our diverse communities in these aspects and show how the help of voting yes on HB 2506 can impact lives. I appreciate your attention and time on my testimony, and hope you can help this good cause.

Jaime Flores
Donate Life NW volunteer, living kidney donor
McMinnville, OR