

## Written Testimony In Support of House Bill 2506

My name is Tracy Hoyle, and I am a native Oregonian and a current resident of Boring, Oregon, residing in district 26. I would like to thank Co-Chairs Beyer, McLain and the honorable members of the Joint Committee On Transportation for allowing me to testify on behalf of Donate Life Northwest and in support of House Bill 2506.

I am passionate about the topic of organ, eye, and tissue donation. When I was just 15 years old, I lost my mother very unexpectedly from a brain aneurysm. Even though I was devastated by her death, I was comforted knowing that she was able to help others in her death, just like she did in her life. My mom was able to donate one of her kidneys and both of her corneas. After this, I never expected that organ donation would touch my family again, but that changed in March of 2000. A young wife at the time, I was listed for a heart transplant after a virus settled in my heart and weakened it. On April 12, I received my life saving transplant, thanks to my amazing donor. I recovered quickly, and six weeks after my transplant, I discovered I was pregnant. I had a great pregnancy and delivered a very healthy son, Trent, on Feb 5, 2001 just nine months, three weeks after my transplant.

Trent is an amazing young man, and I am extremely lucky to have been able to have him and watch him grow up. In early 2012, I wasn't sure I would be able to see him get through his teenage years. I was in heart failure, and also needed kidney transplant. It took a little while longer this time to get on the transplant waiting list. In September 2012, I was hospitalized and told that I would not go home unless I received my transplants. After waiting forty-three days, mostly in the ICU, on October 21 I received both my heart and kidney transplants from the same donor. I have recovered and have since competed in six half marathons, five Portland to Coast relay races, and many other 5K-10K races. I am one of the lucky ones.

I have been a volunteer with Donate Life Northwest since 2001, and I enjoy every aspect of volunteering. I feel that if I can change just one person's mind each time I give a presentation, I have honored my mom as well as my donors, Samantha and Katie. My favorite group to present to are high school students, because they are in such an important time in their lives. I can let them know the importance of being a donor and what it really means to them and their family, as well as all the people on the transplant waiting list.

Despite my involvement with Donate Life Northwest, along with many other dedicated volunteers, there is still a very large gap between organ availability and need. In 2020 in the United States, twenty-four people died while waiting on the transplant list. The average wait time in Oregon is between 3-5 years to receive an organ transplant.

There is still so much work to be done, but because of the modest budget of Donate Life Northwest, we are not able to reach everyone. Revenue earned from this voluntary check box would be used to help us expand the student and community education programs and awareness, as well as other campaigns that are needed to help ensure that all people in Oregon and SW Washington, who need a transplant, will receive one. I encourage you to vote to pass

House Bill 2506. Thirty-six states, including Washington, California, Idaho, Montana and Utah have successfully passed similar measures, generating significant dollars for donation and transplantation awareness, it's time that we join these states!

Thank you again for your time and I urge you to support and pass House Bill 2506.

Tracy Hoyle

Donate Life Northwest volunteer and heart & kidney recipient

Boring, OR