



CORPORATE OFFICE

349 South Main St.
Dayton, OH 45402-2715
1-800-684-7783
(937) 222-0228

TISSUE CENTERS

3573 Bristol Pike, Suite 201
Bensalem, PA 19020
1-800-456-5445
(215) 245-4506

390 E. Park Center Blvd., Ste. 120
Boise, ID 83706
1-866-284-7783
(208) 389-2194

328 S. Adams St.
Fort Worth, TX 76104
1-800-905-2556
(817) 332-1898

7100 N. Financial Dr., Suite 105
Fresno, CA 93720
1-800-201-8477
(559) 224-1168

7770 E. 88th St.
Indianapolis, IN 46256
1-800-984-7783
(317) 842-0009

2900 College Drive
Kettering, OH 45420
1-800-684-7783
(937) 222-0228

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Medford, OR 97504
1-888-702-5662
(541) 773-6054

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Memphis, TN 38138
1-888-683-6566
(901) 683-6566

16361 N.E. Cameron Blvd.
Portland, OR 97230
1-800-545-8668
(503) 408-9394

2736 N. Holland-Sylvania Rd.
Toledo, OH 43615
1-866-684-7783
(419) 536-4924

Written Testimony

In Support of HB 2622

An Act to Establish an Organ Donor Registry and Public Awareness Fund

January 25, 2019

Chair Greenlick and honorable members of the House Committee on Health Care. My name is Robert Boggs, Director for Community Tissue Services branch office in Portland. I'm writing today to express my support for House Bill 2622, which establishes the Organ Donor Registry and Public Awareness Fund.

Community Tissue Services is a non-profit tissue bank that works collaboratively with Donate Life Northwest, Pacific Northwest Transplant Bank, and Lions Visiongift, to educate the community we serve on donation. Although 74% of adult Oregonians have registered to be donors on their driver's license, there is clearly more education to be done-especially in the minority populations we serve. Every Oregonian should be given the same opportunity to be provided an education on the importance of organ, eye, and tissue donation.

Donate Life Northwest is a national leader when it comes to public education. Through their passionate staff and volunteers thousands of Oregonians are educated on donation each year. However, the unfortunate truth is that on average 22 people will die waiting for their life saving gift as a result of the disparity between those on the waitlist and the number of organs available. Over the last four years the average wait time has increased from two to three years for those on the waitlist.

The passage of House Bill 2622 will provide a revenue stream that will allow Donate Life Northwest to increase their ability to educate Oregonians on the importance of donation. Many states have already adopted similar measures that have proven to benefit all those within their community.

Thank you for opportunity to provide written testimony. Passage of House Bill 2622 will empower all our fellow Oregonians to make a big difference in the lives of those waiting for transplants as well as their families.

Most Sincerely,

Robert Boggs

Director