

Senator Laurie Monnes Anderson  
Chair, Senate Committee on Health Care

Chair Anderson and Members of the Oregon Senate Committee on Health Care,

As the federally designated Organ Procurement Organization (OPO) responsible for facilitating donation across Alaska, Montana, North Idaho, and Washington, it is LifeCenter Northwest's mission to save and heal lives through organ and tissue donation. We partner closely with donation and transplant organizations across the United States, especially with our counterparts in neighboring states like Oregon.

We find the proposed alteration of a core element of Oregon's Uniform Anatomical Gift Act (Uniform Act) by Senate Bill 144 to be highly concerning. The organ and tissue donation system in the United States relies on the uniformity of state laws with respect to authorization for organ and tissue donation. The Uniform Act was first created in 1968, revised in 1987 and 2006, and amended in 2007, with endorsements from every donation industry association\*, including the American Association of Tissue Banks. Alteration of a core element of Oregon's Uniform Act, by redefining "procurement organizations" to include "whole body donation organizations," without the endorsement of the Uniform Law Commission, would undermine important work done over many years to promote uniformity in the field of organ and tissue donation.

The primary intent of the Uniform Act is to facilitate organ, eye, and tissue donation to save and enhance lives, not to promote whole body donation. Public trust in the donation and transplantation system is paramount and relies on appropriate oversight, accountability, and consistency within the system. The proposed changes to Oregon's Uniform Act put public trust at risk, run counter to principles upon which the Uniform Act was based, and ultimately jeopardize the availability of life-saving organs for transplantation.

We have serious concerns about the proposed alterations to Oregon's Uniform Act. We urge you to support the community and protect the primary principles of the Uniform Act, thereby facilitating the availability of life-saving organs for transplantation. **Please help protect the integrity of the donation system and reject Senate Bill 144.**



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**\* Endorsements of the Uniform Act - American Academy of Ophthalmology, American Association of Tissue Banks, American Medical Association, American Society of Cataract and Refractive Surgery, Association of Organ Procurement Organizations, Cornea Society Eye Bank Association of America, National Kidney Foundation, United Network for Organ Sharing. Approved by the American Bar Association in 2007.**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kevin O'Connor", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

**Kevin O'Connor  
President and Chief Executive Officer**

**LifeCenter Northwest**