

## Written Testimony

### In Support of SB796 – Relating to benefit protection for living organ donors

I am Isabelle Soule and I have been an Oregon resident for the past 30 years. In June 2018 I had the honor of donating my left kidney to an unknown recipient in Wisconsin. While I have been a nurse for 37 years and have certainly known about and advocated for organ donation, I began to seriously look into donating a kidney myself when I returned to the US in 2017 after three years living and working in Rwanda, East Africa.

I know that donors can function very well on a single kidney. I have a dear friend and colleague who donated a kidney to his young daughter who has helped me understand his lived experience. This paired with the professionalism and impeccably designed policies and procedures of the transplant team, made me feel very comfortable and confident donating my kidney. In addition, I returned to the US during a dark political time and donating a kidney felt like a meaningful act of putting good out into the world. It helped me focus on the positive things under my control where I could help make a significant difference for someone else. It was an important experience and I have had much positive reflection on the process in the ensuing months.

Today, I am a member of the WELD group of Donate Life Northwest–Women Encouraging Living Donation – to help educate the public about living donation. There are currently over 850 people on the transplant waiting list in the state of Oregon. Our hope is through WELD that we can help educate and inspire others to become living donors and save the lives of hundreds of Oregonians.

I encourage you to pass SB 796. Let's join the four other states that have already passed similar measures to help support living donors across the nation. Thank you for your time, and careful consideration of this important bill. I urge you to pass on SB 796.

Respectfully,

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