



Pacific Northwest Transplant Bank

*"To Save, Enhance, and Heal Lives
Through Organ Donation and Transplantation"*

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Senator Beyer, Representative McLain, and members of the Joint Committee on Transportation, my name is Craig Van De Walker, Executive Director of the Pacific Northwest Transplant Bank (PNTB). I write you today to offer our organization's full support of House Bill 2506, to establish the Organ Donor Registry and Public Awareness Fund.

PNTB is the federally designated organ procurement organization (OPO) serving Oregon, Southwest Washington, and Western Idaho. It is part of the United Network for Organ Sharing's Region 6, which includes all of Oregon, Washington, Idaho, Montana, and Alaska. We serve some 82 hospitals in the PNTB service area working with donor families and hospital staff to facilitate the gift of organ donation.

PNTB is fortunate to partner with Donate Life Northwest, which remains a leader nationally in the effort to educate the public about organ, eye and tissue donation. It also manages a long standing, successful donor registry. PNTB has also benefited over the years from a committed legislative body in Oregon, which has adopted some of the most progressive approaches and statutory language with regard to Oregon's Anatomical Gift Act. But the work is far from finished. Today, over 118,000 people nationally are on the waiting list for a lifesaving organ transplant. Sadly, on average, more than 20 people die each day waiting for a transplant. Passage of HB 2506 will create important new opportunities to reach and educate more Oregonians about this great need. The voluntary revenue created by HB 2506 will greatly enhance the state's registry of committed donors and go a long way in saving more lives and reducing the deaths of those on the local, regional, and national waiting lists.

I encourage Oregon to join our neighbors, Washington, California, Idaho, and Utah, who have successfully passed similar measures, generating significant dollars for donation and transplantation awareness efforts in their respective states. Thank you for the opportunity to provide this written testimony. Passage of HB 2506 will empower our fellow Oregonians to make a big difference in the lives of those waiting for transplant and their families and communities.

Sincerely,

Craig Van De Walker
Executive Director