



Written Testimony

In Support of HB 2506

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

February 2, 2021

Senator Beyer, Representative McLain, and members of the Joint Committee on Transportation. 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 2506, 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 over 2.7 million 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 each day more than 20 people will die waiting for their lifesaving gift as a result of the disparity between those on the waitlist and the number of organs available. Over the last few years the average wait time has increased to three to five years for those on the waitlist.

The passage of House Bill 2506 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 the opportunity to provide written testimony. Passage of House Bill 2506 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