

Written Testimony
In Support of HB 2506
To Establish the Organ Donor Registry and Public Awareness Fund

March 26, 2021

Senator Beyer, Representative McLain, and members of the Joint Committee on Transportation. My name is Beth Oliphant Hoover. I am on the Board of Directors for Donate Life Northwest, and I'm writing today to express my support for House Bill 2506, which establishes the Organ Donor Registry and Public Awareness Fund.

I'm grateful for the opportunity to tell you about my younger brother, David. He was a loving son, brother, husband, family member and friend. An avid cyclist, David racked up more than 10,000 miles a year in races and training. In June 2010, David and his team were racing at Portland International Raceway. Within seconds of finishing the race, Dave experienced Cardiac Arrest while still on his bike, and he collapsed onto the track.

A great multitude of brave cyclists and bystanders gathered to provide medical assistance, but he passed almost away instantly.

As our family grappled with the unimaginable loss and acute sorrow, we learned that Dave would continue giving to others through the gifts of life, sight and health. Dave knew something about donation and transplant, but I don't think that he realized that his decision to register as a donor would be a lifesaving second chance for more than 50 people.

Establishing this fund would significantly expand Donate Life Northwest's ability to educate Oregonians about the importance of registering as an organ, eye, and tissue donor. Every new person who adds themselves to the registry brings hope to the 858 people who are on the transplant waiting list in Oregon right now. My brother Dave is a hero, but it's not just my brother. My father and daughter also gave the gift of life through donation. Their lifesaving gifts may not have happened if not for the Oregon Donor Registry. I am so proud of all of them.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this 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.

Sincerely,

Beth Hoover
Lake Oswego, OR