

# Written Testimony

In Support of Oregon HB 2506

To Establish an Organ Donor Registry and Public Awareness Fund

Esteemed co-chairs Senator Lee Beyer, Representative Susan McLain, and members of the Joint Committee on Transportation,

I am writing today in support of Oregon House Bill 2506.

Dialysis is an ugly word. Phonetically, it even has the word die in it. Why couldn't they call it something a little more cheerful like life-alysis or fun blood scrubbing.

But die is what happens to someone every 20 minutes in America waiting for a life-saving organ transplant, most of those kidney patients. According to statistics from UCSF, less than 50% of those who begin dialysis make it to year five. I'm lucky. I've been on dialysis for five and a half years now with over six years of waiting time on the kidney transplant list.

I'm not who you would typically think of when you hear the words dialysis patient. I work full-time at Lam Research corporation in Tualatin. My wife and I just bought a condo in Beaverton. You might be thinking, "Michael you can't be on dialysis. You're only 42."

But it is not without its consequences. In 2016, I had what the medical community calls a cerebrovascular accident, or as you and I would call a stroke. Once again, I'm not a typical stroke victim, and I'm only here speaking with you today because, thanks to god, it was only a minor stroke, and my symptoms subsided rather quickly.

I urge you to pass HB 2506 to support and expand education on organ, eye, and tissue donation. Even though more than 58% of the population is registered, I have been waiting six years, and when I was first put on the transplant list at Legacy Good Samaritan hospital, I was told the wait would be three to five years. There are rare circumstances for someone to be a viable candidate for deceased organ donation. They must first be admitted to the hospital. They must also be hooked up to ventilated support. They must also reach brain death while still on a ventilator, so blood will continue pumping through the organs, making them viable for transplant.

The funds generated by this bill will help to spread awareness of organ donation, which will hopefully shorten the wait for those of us currently on an organ transplant list.

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