

Hello, my name is Keith Lonien. I am the Oregon Region Supervisor for Nationwide Organ Recovery Alliance. We provide transportation services for Organ Procurement Organizations throughout the United States.

I support **Oregon Senate Bill 1161** concerning organ transport vehicles. I have spent most of my adult life in either law enforcement or emergency services. NORA has a fleet of solely dedicated organ transport vehicles stationed in the Portland metro area.

Sadly, In Oregon human organs have the same priority as Amazon delivery trucks when it comes to traffic. All human organs are time sensitive, some more than others. It's very disheartening to be carrying lifesaving organs and be stuck in traffic or sitting at a freeway on ramp in a metering queue, knowing that time is running out on the viability of the organ in the back of our vehicle.

**Senate Bill 1161** would change that and align Oregon with a number of other states that grant emergency vehicles status to vehicles transporting time urgent organs. This only makes good sense.

Everything in the organ transport chain is designed for speed, including pre-placement of transplant teams and the use of medivac aircraft. However, the speed comes to a complete halt when it comes time to transport the organ on freeways and city streets to the local hospitals doing the transplant or to the airport.

As someone who has operated emergency vehicles for many years, I know the purpose of emergency driving is NOT to drive at high speeds on the freeway, that saves very little time, but rather to always keep the organ moving, no matter the conditions. This is where emergency driving is most important, in traffic congestion that is all too common in the Portland metro area.

It is common for ALS/BLS ambulances to be requested to hospitals for transporting a human organ emergently. This may take several hours for the ambulance to wait for the organ to be removed in the OR thus tying up an ambulance for other emergencies.

NORA requires that ALL drivers **MUST** have had at least 5 years of documented EVOC experience and must have been employed during that time as either a Police Officer, Fire Fighter or Paramedic.

I hope you will support **Senate Bill 1161** and do whatever you can to move it forward in passage. This bill is simply too important to NOT pass. It's time to prioritize lifesaving human organs over Amazon boxes.

Keith Lonien- Oregon Region Supervisor

971-998-7215

Noratrans.com

