

**DEB PATTERSON  
STATE SENATOR  
DISTRICT 10**



**OREGON STATE SENATE**

13 May 2025

House Committee on Behavioral Health and Health Care  
Oregon State Capitol  
900 Court Street NE  
Salem, Oregon 97301

**Re: Support for Senate Bill 1161**

Chair Nosse, Vice-Chairs Javadi and Nelson, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Deb Patterson, and I have the honor of serving as the State Senator for District 10, which includes South Salem, West Salem, Monmouth, and Independence. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of Senate Bill 1161. This bill authorizes the Oregon Health Authority to license organ transport vehicles and their drivers to allow those vehicles to use lights and sirens when transporting organs for transplants.

In 2023, 519 Oregonians received a gift of healing through a life-saving organ transplant. Yet today, 997 individuals remain on the transplant waitlist. SB 1161 is about giving those individuals a greater chance at survival. Currently, organs being transported for transplantation are treated no differently under traffic laws than a delivery van. But a donated heart, kidney, or liver must reach its recipient quickly and safely.

SB 1161 sets clear and rigorous standards. Drivers must be trained professionals with emergency vehicle experience, vehicles must meet strict insurance and safety requirements, and both drivers and transport services must be licensed by the state. By passing this bill, Oregon will join states like California and Washington in prioritizing the safe and timely transport of lifesaving organs.

Let us honor the generosity of donors, support their families, and bring hope to the 997 Oregonians still waiting for a second chance at life.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Deb Patterson'. The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Deb Patterson