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**Testimony in Support of SB 190**, An Act Concerning an Income Tax Deduction for Expenses Associated with Organ Donation.

Forty years ago I was diagnosed with Kidney disease. In that time I have spent 4 ½ years on hemodialysis, 1 year on peritoneal dialysis and was blessed with having three kidney transplants.

My life at times has been long and difficult, filled with surgeries and visits to Yale New Haven Hospital. Waking up each morning wondering what the day would bring, but always waking with a smile, appreciating life and always sharing that smile with those who have supported and loved me for who I am.

Transplantation is a blessing, a gift of life. To the donor families, the real heroes, I am and will be forever grateful.

This legislation that is proposed can not replace a loved one, will not change the kindness a living donor gives but will help ease a financial burden and help promote a cause that is truly a gift.