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DEPUTY SENATE MINORITY LEADER

RANKING MEMBER
Appropriations Committee
Internship Committee

MEMBER
Judiciary Committee
Program Review and Investigations
Committee

Date: February 26, 2007

To: Senator Mary Ann Handley
Representative Peggy Sayers
Senator Andrew Roraback
Representative Mary Ann Carson
Members of the Public Health Committee

From: Senator David Cappiello

Re: ***S.B. 190, An Act Concerning an Income Tax Deduction For Expenses Associated with Organ Donation.***

Senators Handley and Roraback, Representatives Sayers and Carson, members of the Public Health Committee, I am here before you today to testify in favor of **S.B. 190, An Act Concerning an Income Tax Deduction For Expenses Associated with Organ Donation.**

As I am sure the committee is aware, Representative Mary Ann Carson and I have together introduced the bill that is before you today. With the passage of this bill, it is our hope to increase the number of organ donations made in Connecticut by providing a practical tax credit incentive to donors. By increasing the number of persons donating organs, we can come closer to the ultimate goal of ensuring that those who are in desperate need of a transplant receive a matching organ.

Donating an organ is a very personal and courageous decision, which can carry additional financial expenses such as transportation-related costs and time off from jobs and other activities. These financial and personal burdens prevent many people from becoming a donor. This bill will allow state residents who donate an organ to claim a credit on their tax returns of up to \$10,000 for non-medical expenses incurred for those donating organs or partial organs, including the kidney, pancreas, intestine or bone marrow.

With tens of thousands of people nationwide waiting for organ transplants, it is imperative that we increase the number of donors. The best way to do this is to recognize the great personal sacrifice made by organ donors. By providing a financial incentive in the form of a tax credit, we can take a major step toward meeting these goals.

Thank you very much for your time and consideration.