



## State of Connecticut

### HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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### **AAC A Deduction on the Income Tax for Expenses Associated with Organ Donation** **rHB 5631**

Testimony by George M. Wilber, Assistant Majority Leader

Senator Handley and Representative Sayers:

I am here to testify in favor of House Bill 5631 and wish to thank leadership for raising this important piece of legislation. This bill has over 46 sponsors or co sponsors and has bipartisan support

Currently in Connecticut there are approximately 3,500 people on dialysis. Of these patients, 621 are waiting a kidney donation and 64 are waiting for a liver. The two transplant centers in Connecticut perform transplants from living donors for both of these organs. According to the United Network for Organ Sharing, last year there were 31 deceased donors and 40 living donors in Connecticut. The current waiting time for a kidney or liver is 3 to 4 years.

Bill #5631 will provide an incentive to potential living donors to deduct up to \$10,000 from their taxes to cover expenses associated with the donation process such as missed work, travel and over the counter medications. According to OFA, the cost would be less than \$100,000. Currently half of the states in the U.S. have similar legislation, passed or pending.

It costs \$70,000 for a person to be on dialysis for a year and it cost about \$13,000 per year after the initial cost of surgery and recovery, thus a savings of about \$57,000 per person.

We believe the incentive to a living donor to recoup some of their out of pocket expenses, particularly lost wages, would increase the number of donations for transplantation and reduce the number of people on dialysis.

Thank you.

George M. Wilber, Assistant Majority Leader