



**State of Connecticut**  
**SENATE**  
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**DEPUTY SENATE MINORITY LEADER**

**RANKING MEMBER**  
Appropriations Committee  
General Law Committee

**MEMBER**  
Internship Committee

Date: February 29, 2008

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: ***HB 5631, 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 **HB 5631, An Act Concerning an Income Tax Deduction For Expenses Associated with Organ Donation.**

As many of you know, for several years Rep. Mary Ann Carson and I have proposed this legislation in the hopes of increasing the number of organ donations made in Connecticut by providing a practical tax credit incentive to donors. Due to the significant number of bipartisan co-sponsors of the legislation, this year we are even more hopeful of its successful passage.

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 donors. 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 vital that we increase the number of donors. The best way to accomplish 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 will take a major step toward meeting these goals and ensure that those in desperate need of a transplant will receive a matching organ.

Thank you very much for your time and consideration.