


LifeChoice Donor Services
A DONATE LIFE ORGANIZATION



March 16, 2009

Senator Jonathan A. Harris
Representative Elizabeth B. Ritter
Co-Chairs
Public Health Committee
Room 3000
Legislative Office Building
Hartford, CT 06106

Dear Senator Harris & Representative Ritter:

On behalf of LifeChoice Donor Services, one of the organ and tissue procurement organizations in Connecticut, I write in support of Raised Bill 6677, *An Act Concerning Anatomical Gifts*. There continues to be a critical shortage of organs and tissues for transplantation. The purpose of this bill is to update and further clarify Connecticut's Uniform Anatomical Gift Act (UAGA) and to support more uniform legislation throughout the country directly related to anatomical donations.

The Connecticut legislature has historically supported donation by enacting the initial UAGA in 1968 and was one of the 26 states that adopted the 1987 revisions. In 2004 the states' UAGA was further enhanced with creation of the donor registry in collaboration with the Department of Motor Vehicles. In keeping with the legislatures past support we recommend enactment of this bill for the following reasons:

- Facilitates donation by expanding the list of those who can make an anatomical gift;
- Substantially strengthens the respect due a person who has made an anatomical gift to have their decision honored;
- Addresses potential conflict between a person's end of life decisions and donor designation;
- Creates a priority for organ transplantation and therapy;
- Specifies the person to whom an organ or tissue passes when the donor designation is one of "general intent to be a donor"; and
- Allows time and access to information for an adequate medical evaluation to determine donor eligibility.

Thank you for considering this very important bill in support of organ and tissue donation.

Respectfully submitted,

Deborah Savaria

Deborah Savaria
Executive Director

8 Griffin Road North • Suite 200 B • Windsor, CT 06095-1573

Office Phone 860.286.3120 • Toll Free Number 800.874.5215 • Fax 860.286.3147