

**Written Testimony of
- Bruce Abbott Adams -**

March 7, 2012

**In Support of House Bill No. 5333
Public Health Committee**

**Testimony in support of HB 5333,
An Act Concerning Organ and Tissue Donation Awareness**

Representative Ritter, Senator Gerratana, and members of the Public Health Committee. I appreciate the opportunity to submit this written testimony in support of House Bill # 5333.

My name is Bruce Abbott Adams. I am writing in support of House Bill # 5333. This legislation will increase opportunities to educate the residents of Connecticut of the importance of organ and tissue donation. I am a double organ transplant recipient. I received my gift on July 18, 2010. It was a liver and kidney from my donor family. That donor family had actually received that liver from another donor family. Yes, my liver has been transplanted twice! My family also knows the pain that comes from watching a loved one pass away while on the waiting list. My mother-in-law Gale Kopcik passed away on Jan. 6, 2006 while waiting for a liver to become available.

I am a volunteer with Donate Life Connecticut. I help support Donate Life Connecticut by being an ambassador to the Hamden Branch of the Department of Motor Vehicles. I also share my story by speaking at colleges, hospitals, health fairs and other events that we are invited to. I am a husband, a father of three children. I work full-time at Sikorsky Aircraft Corporation, a division of United Technologies Corporation. I also volunteer in my community of Seymour as a coach for the Soccer Association, the Little League and Recreation Basketball.

I support this legislation as it creates an opportunity for Connecticut to increase the number of donors statewide. More lives are saved when more people say 'yes' to donation. There are over 112,000 people in America that are candidates awaiting transplants, of which 1,200 are here in Connecticut. With 19 Americans dying daily simply because an organ did not come in time, the situation is dire. More education, information, exposure and outreach is needed within Connecticut to help our residents who wait for that life-changing phone call. Creating a collaborative team that can explore successes other states have experienced, will allow us to model our efforts after such leading donation states.

I thank you for introducing this life-saving legislation. I know it will make a difference in the lives of those 1,200 Connecticut residents who hold out hope for their chance at a better life, the same hope that I held on to and was lucky enough to be granted.

Thank you,

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