

**Written Testimony of
Christopher R. Peyton**

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 Christopher Peyton. I am a liver transplant recipient. I received the gift of life on May 5, 2011. My wife, my daughters & I will always be grateful to my donor and her family and they are in our prayers daily. Before my liver transplant, I did not know if I would see my children graduate high school & go on to college. Now I am able to look forward to the future with the confidence that I will be part of it. My family has become active with Donate Life Connecticut to promote the importance of organ, eye & tissue donation.

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. Presently, Connecticut has 40% of adults committed to organ and tissue donation. Too many American die each day waiting for an organ transplant. More education, information, exposure and outreach are needed to raise Connecticut above the national average. Creating a collaborative team that can explore the successes of other states will allow us to shape our efforts to make Connecticut a leader in donor registration.

Thank you for introducing this life-saving legislation. I know it will have a positive impact on the lives of more than 1,200 Connecticut residents waiting for the 'gift of life' that I have already received.

Thank you,
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