



State of Connecticut
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Senator Gerratana, Representative Ritter, Senator Welch, Representative Perillo, and other distinguished members of the Public Health Committee – thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of **HB 5333 – AAC Organ and Tissue Donation Awareness**.

I think many of us personally know someone whose life has been impacted by organ or tissue donation. My good friend, former Mayor of East Haven April Capone, famously donated a kidney to someone she met through Facebook when he posted a desperate message asking for help. The father of another friend, whom I have known for nearly twenty-five years, was a recent recipient of a new heart, just as it seemed his days were numbered.

But these success stories are not always the case. All too often a person in need is left waiting until it is too late.

Connecticut's rate of registered donors is approximately thirty-three percent – near the bottom when compared to the other forty-nine states. The goal of this bill is to raise that rate through the creation of an advisory panel whose sole focus is to promote organ and tissue donation awareness. In addition, an organ donation awareness fund will be created through voluntary donations on car registrations.

By raising awareness of the benefits and virtues of becoming a registered donor, we can raise the number of donors in Connecticut and save more lives in the process. It has been my extreme pleasure to work with Donate Life Connecticut to promote this goal.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today, and I welcome any questions.

Sincerely,

James M. Albis
State Representative
99th District – East Haven