

Bonhomme, Penny

From: JAANDREWS8 [jaandrews8@comcast.net]
Sent: Tuesday, March 06, 2012 8:25 AM
To: PHC Testimony
Cc: KARI MULL
Subject: ORGAN DONATION

Written Testimony of : Jane Andrews
March 7, 2012
In support of House Bill # 5333
Public Health Committee

Testimony in support of HB 5333, an act concerning organ and tissue donation awareness.

My name is Jane Andrews. I am a double organ transplant recipient. When I was eight years old, I was diagnosed with diabetes. The disease was rarely heard of back then and was kept a secret between my family and teachers at school. Little was known about how to care for this disease, so we did the best we could. My life expectancy was short, and other complications were expected. That did not stop me from doing things kids do, living a full life.

In my mid thirties, I started not feeling well. After awhile, that feeling was more often than not existent. My kidneys were failing. I had end stage renal disease. End stage. Kidneys help rid our bodies of poisons and toxins. With those poisons in our system, nothing functions well. My diabetes was uncontrollable. I was wetting the bed. Sleeping too much. I would sleep for ten or more hours, wake up, shower, dress, and when it came time to sit and put my socks and shoes on, I would fall right back to sleep. A sound sleep.

Through the miracle of modern medicine and the generosity of a perfect stranger, I am working full time, volunteering with Donate Life and LifeChoice Donor Services, participating in the Transplant Olympic Games, and recently celebrated my 50th birthday.

90% of people believe that organ, eye, and tissue disease is a good thing. Less than 35% of them are registered donors. Please help us dispel the myths surrounding donation and make people more aware of the many lives we can save.

Thank you.