

**Written Testimony of
Kathryn Hood
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 No. 5333.

My name is Kathryn Hood. I am a donor mom and volunteer with LifeChoice Donor Services. I support HB 5333 to increase opportunities to educate Connecticut residents on the importance of organ and tissue donation.

In 2006, after my son's fatal motorcycle accident, our family honored his wish to donate his organs, tissue, bone and cornea. Losing our beloved Bryan was beyond difficult for our family but his decision to donate provided some comfort. We knew that others who were critically ill would be given the precious gift of a second chance at life. The letters we have received from his grateful recipients confirm that Bryan's donation has changed their lives and rescued them from terminal illness. They are now living healthy productive lives and pursuing their dreams with a renewed appreciation of life.

Though most Connecticut residents support organ donation, only 40% are registered donors. More education and awareness is needed to bring Connecticut in line with other leading donation states. Thank you for introducing this life-saving legislation which will certainly increase the Connecticut Donor Registry.

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