

**Written Testimony of  
- Mary Carroll -**

**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 Mary Carroll. I am the Health Education Coordinator for the Milford Public Schools. I also teach health education to high school students. 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.

For the past few years, Kari Mull from Donate Life Connecticut has spoken to the students in our schools about organ and tissue donation. The presentation provided students with a great deal of information about organ and tissue donation and helped to dismiss many of the myths associated with this topic. It was an excellent springboard to discussion about the values of such an important program. One thing that was especially insightful was that this type of donation not only benefits the recipient, but also helps the surviving families and friends of the donors deal with their grief. In other cases, what a wonderful feeling it must be to see someone live and thrive because of the donation of one of your kidneys or a liver!

Having an organ donor come in to tell his/her story helps to personalize the process for the students and encourages them to think about registering as a donor when he/she gets his/her license. It also provides the students with an understanding of what the process involves. This may encourage them to be more willing to abide by their loved one's wishes, should they ever be in a position to make that decision.

*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. 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 to surge Connecticut beyond average participation levels. Creating a collaborative team that can explore successes other states have experienced, will allow us to model our efforts after such leading donation states.*

*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'.*

Thank you,  
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