

**Written Testimony of
Mitchell R. Goldblatt**

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 Mitch Goldblatt. I am a Selectman in the Town of Orange and the Director of Human Resources in the Town of Guilford and a long time Blood Donor and Registered Organ Donor. With the Town of Guilford, I have worked with Kari Mull, the Director of Donate Life Connecticut. Kari's outreach efforts continue to impress me about the value of Organ and Tissue Donation, which has led to Guilford's yearly participation in Donate Life month. In addition, Kari addressed our employees during a recent Healthy Lunch and impressed upon so many, the importance of Organ and Tissue Donation.

The fact is that we need to further the education and knowledge of Organ and Tissue Donation to many more people and House Bill #5333 will greatly assist this effort.

This legislation creates an opportunity for Connecticut to increase the number of donors statewide. More lives will be saved when more people say 'yes' to donation. At 40%, Connecticut is below the national average of 42%.of adults committed to organ and tissue donation. With 19 Americans dying daily simply because an organ did not come in time, the situation is dire. Further education, information, exposure and outreach are needed to surge Connecticut beyond average. 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'

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