

**Written Testimony of
Academy of Our Lady of Mercy, Luralton Hall
Mrs. Peggy McGowan, Department of Health & Physical Education**

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 Peggy McGowan and I am the Health and Physical Education Teacher at Luralton Hall in Milford – an all girls Catholic college preparatory high school. I have a representative from Donate Life Connecticut come to speak to my Sophomore classes every year – they have made an educational impact on many, many young girls who will soon be getting their driver’s license. The educational aspect of this organization and its mission is extremely important to our young people, who really do not fully understand what it is all about! 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.
- Presently, Connecticut has 40% of adults committed to organ and tissue donation. This is below the national average of 42%. 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. 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,

Mrs. Peggy McGowan
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