

**Written Testimony of
Sandra R. Michaelson**

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 am grateful for the the opportunity to submit this written testimony in support of House Bill # 5333.

I am the mother of a 27-year-old son who approximately eight years ago was diagnosed with primary sclerosing cholangitis, a rare and incurable liver disease. It is very likely that my son will require a liver transplant at any point in the futue. My fear is the fear that any parent would have in this situation, and that is that he will not be able to find a donor liver. I have read the statistics – approximately 30 percent of individuals requiring a new liver are unable to find one, which means that they die. Can you imagine how you might feel if this is a prospect that your son or daughter might face?

Raising awareness about organ donation in the state would allow us to hold our heads high in Connecticut, knowing that we are doing all that we can to increase the number of organ donors and giving people like my son a shot at life.

I applaud you for introducing this very important piece of legislation, and I am hopeful for its passage.

Sincerely,

Sandra R. Michaelson
160 Fairfield Woods Road, #2
Fairfield, Connecticut
srmichaelson@optonline.net