

**Written Testimony of
Steven G. Taibbi**

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 Steven G. Taibbi and I am the Vice-president and member of the Board of *Transplant Speakers International, Inc.* We are a non-profit charity whose mission is to educate as many people as possible on the dire need of organ and tissue donation. We also have an adjunct outside of London, England. All of TSI's board members are either transplant recipients or members of donor families.

March 27th will mark the eleven year anniversary of my heart transplant. Without that life-saving gift I would not have had the past eleven years with my wife and family. I would not have become a member of TSI, though which I, and TSI, have trained more than 7,000 people across America and England. We know that because of the educational efforts of TSI about organ and tissue donation that lives have been saved. Education works.

Time and time again, we have seen education and educational efforts increase donation rates in state after state. Most of those states have laws similar to the one being proposed here.

It is nothing short of a national tragedy that 19 people die every day for no better reason than the fact that there are just not enough life-saving organs available. The passage of this bill could go a long way into turning this national tragedy into a national victory. *Transplant Speakers International* is in complete support of this bill. Please, in the names of all the lives a bill like this could save, pass it.

Thank you
Steven G. Taibbi
Heart Transplant Recipient
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