

**Written Testimony of;**

**David Hull, MD, FACS  
Emeritus Director of Transplantation  
Senior Surgical Staff  
Hartford Hospital**

**Clinical Professor of Surgery  
University of Connecticut Medical School**

**March 7, 2012  
In Support of House Bill No. 5333  
Public Health Committee**

**An Act Concerning Organ and Tissue Donation Awareness**

Representative Ritter, Senator Gerratana, and members of the Public Health Committee have submitted House Bill # 5333.. I appreciate the opportunity to submit my written testimony in support of House Bill # 5333.

I have been involved in the State of Connecticut in Organ Transplantation as a physician and surgeon since 1987 at Hartford Hospital. I have also been involved for over 15 years in the administration of Hartford Hospital's Transplant Program. Since my arrival I have also been part of the training of medical students, residents, fellows, nursing students, mid level practioners, and others. These activities of patient care and teaching involves recipient operations and their medical care, live kidney donor operations, and deceased donor operations. I have been involved in our Donor Service Area Organ Procurement Organization since 1987 and now known as LifeChoice Donor Services (LCDS). I am a medical director at LCDS as well co-chairing the medical advisory board and a member of the Board of Directors (ex-Officio). I have also held membership and Chairmanship on committees of United Network of Organ Sharing (OPTN/UNOS). Presently I am a member of the Membership and Professional Standards Committee of UNOS and Associate Counselor of New England (Region 1) as a volunteer and elected position. I also volunteer at the American Liver Foundation, The national Kidney Foundation as well as **Donate Life Connecticut**.

**House Bill 5333** is an important additional to Connecticut's present enthusiasm to provide organ and tissue donation. In the US 29 of the 52 states and territories have similar legislation as the proposed House Bill 5333. Connecticut Registered Donors has increased over the years to 40% but remains below the national of average of 42%. We should be even higher than this and reach their highest goal possible as an example to the nation.

Over 25 years of experience I have seen the Miracles of Life help both the deceased donor family, and recipients. In fact from 1 deceased donor it is possible through organ

transplantation to save 8 recipient lives (2 lung, 1 heart, 1 liver, 2 kidneys, 1 pancreas and 1 small intestine transplant). The courage and humanitarian ethics of all donors reflects true altruistic ideals and these days are heart warming to witness such love of fellow humans. In fact live donors for over a decade have not only been the largest increase in organ donation but many years have exceeded deceased donor rates. Tissue donation (corneas, skin, bone, tendons heart valves, etc) have transformed many; a parent to see their kids, a cancer victim (often a child) to receive a bone transplant after extensive resection operations, human heart valves that out perform other valve types (in a young person who usually needs open chest surgery maybe 2 or more times in their lifetime human heart valves potential decreases this to one additional procedure). I have also spoken many times at the Deceased Donor Family Gathering to praise the deceased donor and their families who have helped so many.

My association as a volunteer with **Donate Life Connecticut** has been a natural progression for me. The organization runs on a very modest budget with few employees and many volunteers. This organization has given me the opportunity to render an opinion from many different perspectives. Increasing organ and tissue donation helps loved ones by knowing life lives within others. Recipients return to main stream family, work and community activities. **Donate Life Connecticut** has added to the increase of deceased donors in our state which also helped many residents of Connecticut with organ failure and revived them and their families to health.

Without hesitation I support **House Bill No. 5333** and encourage the passing of this life saving legislation. I also urge you to listen closely to these testimonies since they represent sincere and humanitarian ideals and I consider the donors as heroes in the fight against diseases and on occasion cancer.

Sincerely

David Hull, MD  
54 Pleasant Street  
West Hartford, Ct  
06107  
[dhull@comcast.net](mailto:dhull@comcast.net)  
Cell 860-916-5780