

**Written Testimony of
- Rick O'Connor -**

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 Rick O'Connor and I am a Certified Clinical Transplant Nurse at Yale New-Haven Hospital. I am writing in support of House Bill 5333. As you know, this bill will increase opportunities to educate the residents of Connecticut of the importance of organ and tissue donation.

There are over 1,240 Connecticut residents waiting for life saving organ transplant. As a critical care transplant nurse, I have seen too many of these residents die due to organ unavailability. Having witnessed the success of transplantation, I am disheartened knowing there was an opportunity to preserve someone's life.

Increasing awareness of organ and tissue donation is not only a professional responsibility, but it is also personal for me. My step father died of liver failure while waiting for a suitable organ to become available. This event in my life changed my career path and provides me with the courage and motivation to write and speak to you today.

There are many myths and false beliefs toward organ and tissue donation. I encourage you to support this bill so we can provide the residents of our state with accurate information regarding organ and tissue donation so they may, in fact, make an informed choice regarding their ability to save lives.

Thank you,

Rick O'Connor
14 Windsor Place
Naugatuck, CT 06770
Rick.O'Connor@ynhh.org
203 233 8461