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Sen. Andrew M. Maynard
Rep. Tony Guerrera
Sen. Toni Boucher
Rep. David A. Scribner

RE: SB 337, An Act Requiring A Driver's License Applicant To Select Or Decline To Make An Anatomical Gift

Dear Members of the Transportation Committee:

Please consider amending this bill to include cadaver donors.

Quinnipiac University Frank H. Netter, MD School of Medicine, where I am a registered donor, as well as other teaching hospitals often have difficulty obtaining complete bodies for the next generation of doctors to work with during their training.

As the following article explains the relationship between a medical student and a cadaver is unique and important. Learning about the human body requires that all the senses be involved and that the senses learn from the experience. How does an elbow move, where does a ligament stop and a bone begin? These are not to be answered from books, pictures or computer modeling. They require the student to touch flesh and bone.

<http://articles.latimes.com/2011/apr/25/health/la-he-gross-anatomy-20110425>

The Greek physician and surgeon Galen (129-200 AD) was the biggest influence on the understanding of human anatomy, physiology, pathology, pharmacology, and neurology for more than 1,300 years until his conclusions were challenged by an Italian-educated native of the Netherlands, Andreas Vesalius in the mid-1500s. Galen's entire work was based on dissections of animals. Vesalius proved many of Galen's conclusions wrong, but they continued to be believed and followed by some into the 19th Century. We continue to this day to believe Galen's conclusion that the brain controls all nerve functions. Do we want to continue to rely on 1,800 year old theories?

Please include in this bill an overlooked, but incredibly important to science and the future of medicine.

Thank you,

Jim O'Neill