

March 4, 2015

Senator Terry Gerratana
Representative Matthew Ritter
Co-Chairs
Public Health Committee
Room 3000
Legislative Office Building
Hartford, CT 06106

Dear Senator Gerratana and Representative Ritter:

On behalf of LifeChoice Donor Services, one of the organ and tissue procurement organizations in Connecticut, I write in support of Raised HB 6281, *An Act Concerning Organ and Tissue Donation Awareness*. There continues to be a critical shortage of organs and tissues for transplantation. CT has 1,471 candidates on the waiting list: 1,255 awaiting a kidney transplant, 158 Liver, 9 Pancreas, 20 Kidney and Pancreas, and 29 Heart candidates. The purpose of this bill is to increase opportunities for education of Connecticut residents on the importance of organ and tissue donation.

The Connecticut legislature has historically supported donation by enacting several uniform acts along with SB 250 in 2010. In keeping with the legislatures past support we recommend enactment of this bill for the following reasons:

- Facilitates donation by expanding the education of Connecticut residents to the tremendous need of fellow residents waiting life-saving transplant;
- Establishes numerical goals for increasing organ and tissue donation rates in the state, currently 45% of CT licensed drivers are designated. This trails behind some states with as high as 75% designation rates;
- Will assist in developing strategies to accomplish those numerical goals;
- Creates a Donor Awareness fund in support of the above listed activities. LifeChoice would like to have the fund entirely expended at the direction of the CT advisory council on organ and tissue donation education and awareness only for the purposes stated in this bill and not have 65% of the total funds be expended to a Connecticut based non-profit organization.

Thank you for considering this very important bill in support of organ and tissue donation.

Respectfully submitted,

Deborah Savaria

Deborah Savaria
Executive Director