



Improving Healthcare
for the Common Good®

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March 4, 2015

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

RE: Written Testimony of Danielle Daley in Support of HB 6281 – An Act Concerning Organ and Tissue Donation Awareness

Dear Representative Ritter, Senator Gerratana, and members of the Public Health Committee:

I appreciate the opportunity to submit this written testimony regarding House Bill # 6281. My name is Danielle Daley and I am the Executive Director of IPRO End Stage Renal Disease Network of New England (Network 1). IPRO holds the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services contract to facilitate the improvement of healthcare and quality of life for individuals who have chronic renal insufficiency and those treated with dialysis or transplantation in the New England States. In addition to Network 1 being one of the founding agencies of Donate Life Connecticut, staff are active members of the Donate Life Connecticut Board of Directors and proud of the accomplishments of the organization.

IPRO End Stage Renal Disease Network of New England and Donate Life Connecticut have similar goals - to promote transplantation. A key strategy for increasing the number of transplants that saves lives is to increase the organ and tissue donor registry. As of January 1, 2015, there over 14,000 patients receiving dialysis treatment in New England, of which close to 4,000 are Connecticut residents. A kidney transplant offers the best long-term quality of life for those suffering renal failure. Currently, there are over 3,000 people waiting for a kidney transplant in New England with approximately 1,000 waiting in Connecticut alone. The wait for a transplant can be long, because there are not enough deceased donors. Many patients will die waiting. For this reason, House Bill No. 6281: An Act Concerning Organ and Tissue Donation Awareness should be passed by the legislature of Connecticut. The benefit will be strengthened outreach programs. Establishing an Organ and Tissue Awareness Fund would provide financial stability to stakeholders for addressing the critical need and disparity of available organs and tissues for transplantation, and accelerate Donate Life Connecticut's goal to ultimately increase the number of registered donors.

Thank you for considering this very important bill.

Respectfully submitted,

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