

**Written Testimony of
- Patricia Sheiner -**

**March 4, 2015
Public Health Committee**

**Testimony in support of HB 6281,
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 strong support of House Bill #6281, An Act Concerning Organ and Tissue Donation Awareness.

My name is Dr. Patricia Sheiner and I am the director of Transplant at Hartford Hospital. As a transplant surgeon for over 25 years, I can tell you first hand that transplant saves lives. I have also seen a number of patients die because they did not get a life saving organ in time.

There are still a number of misconceptions regarding organ donation and more education and outreach is needed. Presently, Connecticut has 43% of adults committed to organ and tissue donation. This is below the national average of 46%. With 19 Americans dying daily simply because an organ did not come in time, the situation is dire. More education, information, exposure and outreach is needed to surge Connecticut beyond average.

I support this legislation that is similar to legislation passed in 29 other states. Funds in these states have been used to increase donor education and has resulted in more programming that has increased the number of registered donors.. More lives are saved when more people say 'yes' to donation.

Thank you for introducing this life-saving legislation. I know it will have a positive impact on the lives of more than 1,465 Connecticut residents waiting for the 'gift of life' that I have already received.

Thank you,
Patricia Sheiner MD
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