

STATE OF CONNECTICUT  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES



HOUSE DEMOCRATS OFFICE  
LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BUILDING, ROOM 4100  
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06106-1591

March 4, 2015

Senator Gerretana, Representative Ritter, Senator Markley, Representative Srinivasan, and other distinguished members of the Public Health Committee – thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of HB 6281 – AN ACT CONCERNING ORGAN AND TISSUE DONATION AWARENESS.

Many of us personally know someone whose life has been impacted by organ or tissue donation, either as a donor or a recipient. For recipients, donation can be a matter of life or death, and for donors, it is a selfless act and often a rewarding experience.

However, many are left waiting for a donation that never comes. Connecticut's rate of registered organ donors is at about 42% - below the national average. Additionally, there are nearly 1,500 people waiting for an organ in Connecticut. We must do more to increase the number of donors in our state.

That is exactly what this bill sets out to do. We can build on the success of the organ donation advisory council created in 2012 by implementing a voluntary check-off box on our vehicle registration forms to donate a nominal fee into an organ donation awareness fund that would be used to encourage people to sign up as donors. The organ donation advisory council has already shown improvement in our registry numbers from a small grant in 2012 – now it is time to give them a dedicated fund to pursue this noble cause.

We commend the work of Donate Life Connecticut in promoting the goal of saving lives through organ donation education, and thank them for their dedication to the people of the State of Connecticut.

We hope to have your support of HB 6281. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of James Albis in black ink.

Rep. James Albis

Handwritten signature of Emmett D. Riley in black ink.

Rep. Emmett Riley