

Rep. Koleszar, Chair of the Michigan House Education Committee,

I am a donor brother-in-law writing to support [HB5174](#), which would require education about organ donation and the Donor Registry to all 9<sup>th</sup> graders in Michigan public schools. Many other states require education about organ donation. Michigan does not, which is extremely sad.

If Michigan could match other states' new driver registration rates, we would see another 100,000 young people added annually to the Donor Registry. In 2023, Michigan had 578 organ donors and 1858 tissue donors. We can do better than this with more education.

The Michigan Donor Family Council is proud to support organ eye and tissue donation in our state. The more people educated on organ, eye, and tissue donation, the more lives we enhance and save.

Currently, 2,400 Michigan adults are waiting for a life-saving organ transplant. An additional 16,000 Michigan adults linger on dialysis, many of whom would benefit from a kidney transplant.

I am asking for prompt passage of this critical legislation. I appreciate your consideration.

Sincerely,

***Walt***

**Walter O Herndon Jr., Donor Brother-in-law**

Chief Financial Officer

Michigan Donor Family Council

***Organ Donation Saves and Enhances Lives***

**C: 313-600-2566**

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