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Sept. 25, 2023

To members of the Michigan House Health Policy Committee,

Gift of Life Michigan is our state's federally designated organ procurement organization, responsible for the recovery of organs and tissues from deceased donors for transplant.

Gift of Life is writing in support of SB 384, which will prevent health insurers from denying or canceling coverage due to being a living organ donor. Most organ donation occurs after death. However, those precious living donors, who donate a kidney or part of their liver to another person, are heroes. They deserve our protection and respect. Our hope is that this legislation will remove barriers of fear over future health coverage being negatively affected for anyone considering being an organ donor.

We are also writing in support of SB 287, which will encourage family doctors and urgent care centers to make information about organ, tissue, eye, and bone marrow donation available to patients. Not surprisingly, studies show that those reluctant to add their names to the Donor Registry view their family doctors among those most trusted for information about being an organ donor. This legislation does not mandate anything. However, it would enable Gift of Life Michigan and other donation partners to have a greater impact in reaching doctors and providing ongoing education to them and their patients.

In summary, before the Michigan legislature are vital pieces of legislation that will each make a difference by saving more lives in Michigan. We urge your support and for the rapid passage of SB384 and SB287.

Thank you,

Patrick Wells-O'Brien
Vice President
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