



February 25, 2020

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 869

The Honorable William C. Smith, Jr, Chairman and The Honorable Jeffrey D. Waldstreicher, Vice Chair
Judicial Proceedings Committee

Dear Chairman Smith, Vice Chair Waldstreicher, and Members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee,

On behalf of Donate Life Maryland and the more than 3.600 Marylanders awaiting a life-saving organ transplant, thank you for your continued support of organ and tissue donation. Donate Life Maryland's mission is to save and enhance lives by registering organ, eye and tissue donors and providing public education and awareness about organ, eye and tissue donation. Our vision is that every Marylander can make an educated decision about organ, eye and tissue donation.

We are honored to work with and support The Living Legacy Foundation of Maryland and the Washington Regional Transplant Community, the two federally designated organ procurement organizations (OPO) certified by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) to coordinate the donation process throughout Maryland.

Maryland's Revised Uniform Anatomical Gift Act (RUAGA) provides the framework for our collective life-saving work, and we ensure adherence to this, as well as all the federal laws and guidelines associated with the organ and tissue donation process. However, the statute's current language does not reflect current practice in Maryland, or throughout the United States.

SB 869 will provide the necessary revisions and updated language to the Maryland RUAGA statute ensuring congruency with current donation and transplantation practice in Maryland and throughout the United States.

We sincerely appreciate the legislature's ongoing support of our efforts and your role in helping us save lives and honor donors, their families, and the very grateful recipients whose lives are changed through organ and tissue donation.

Sincerely,

Jim Ford
Executive Director
Donate Life Maryland