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THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
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**TESTIMONY FOR HEALTH AND GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS
COMMITTEE**

CHAIR SHANE PENDERGRASS
VICE CHAIR JOSELINE PENA-MELNYK

**HOUSE BILL 1370 – Organ and Tissue Donation Awareness Fund – Annual Funding and
Extension**

SUPPORT

March 9, 2022

Good Afternoon Chairman Pendergrass and Vice Chair Pena-Melnyk. I am here today to ask for your support for HB 1370 – Organ and Tissue Donation Awareness Fund – Annual Funding and Extension. HB 1370 Reauthorizes and extends funding for Maryland's organ donor registry to raise awareness of organ donation across the State.

The program been annually funded at \$400,000 since inception in 2007 and this bill increases funding to \$500,000 and authorizes the funding for another five years. Donate Life Maryland (DLM) is the state-authorized nonprofit organization responsible for managing the Maryland Donor Registry. DLM works closely with the two federally designated nonprofit organ procurement organizations serving Maryland, The Living Legacy Foundation of Maryland (LLF) and the Washington Regional Transplant Community (WRTC). In addition to managing and operating the Maryland Donor Registry, DLM, in partnership with The LLF and WRTC, helps spread the word about organ, eye and tissue donation and how to register as a donor in Maryland. Since 2009, Donate Life Maryland has registered over 2.2 Million Donors and provides outreach and education on the importance of organ, eye and tissue donation.

In Maryland, organ demand has steadily increased over the past 20 years, and the need for Donate Life's work is more necessary than ever. For this reason I am asking for a favorable report on HB 1370. Thank you for your time.