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**HB 96 Public Health – Nondiscrimination in Access to Anatomical Gifts and Organ
Transplantation – Financial Status
FAVORABLE**

January 26, 2022

Hon. Shane E. Pendergrass
Chair, Health and Government Operations Committee
House Office Building, Room 241
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Chairwoman Pendergrass, Vice-Chair Pena-Melnyk, and Committee Members,

On behalf of Donate Life Maryland, Living Legacy Foundation, and the more than 3,600 Marylanders awaiting a life-saving organ transplant, thank you for your continued support of organ and tissue donation. Our collective mission is to save and enhance lives by registering organ, eye and tissue donors, providing public education and awareness about organ, eye and tissue donation, and coordinate the donation process throughout Maryland. 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 Washington Regional Transplant Community, who along with the Living Legacy Foundation, comprise the two federally designated organ procurement organizations (OPO) certified by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS).

HB 96 will provide the necessary revisions and updated language to the statute ensuring that all Marylanders are considered for organ transplantation regardless of their financial status. This bill will ensure that there are reasonable modifications in policies, practices, or procedures, when the modifications are necessary to allow an individual with a disability or financial issues access to services, including transplantation-related counseling, information, coverage, or treatment, unless the covered entity can demonstrate that making the modifications would fundamentally alter the nature of the services.

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,

Handwritten signature of Lisa M. Spicknall in black ink.

Lisa Spicknall
Executive Director
Donate Life Maryland

Handwritten signature of Karen Kennedy in black ink.

Karen Kennedy
VP, External Affairs & Education
Living Legacy Foundation

**What can YOU make possible? Register TODAY to be an organ, eye and tissue donor!
To become a donor visit: register.donatelifemaryland.org**