



Giving Life. Restoring Hope.

**HB1068 Maryland Revised Uniform Anatomical Gift Act -  
Donors - Registration by Tax Return Checkoff  
FAVORABLE**

February 20, 2024

Hon. Delegate Vanessa Atterbeary

Ways and Means Committee  
Room 131  
House Office Building  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Dear Chair Atterbeary, Vice Chair Wilkins, and Committee Members,

On behalf of Infinite Legacy (IL) and the more than 2,200 Marylanders awaiting a life-saving organ or tissue transplant, thank you for your continued support of organ and tissue donation. IL is privileged to work collaboratively with Maryland hospitals, transplant centers, the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner, and funeral homes to facilitate organ and tissue donation.

We also work collaboratively with Donate Life Maryland (DLM), with whom we partner for public education initiatives to increase awareness about organ, eye, and tissue donation across the state. DLM's dedication to ensuring every Marylander has an opportunity to designate their intent to be a donor provides us with the privilege to honor that designation at the time of their death.

Every day, IL has the honor of working with families, who at a time of tremendous loss, help others through the gift of donation. Without the incredible support of the Maryland legislature, we would not have accomplished all we have done thus far in saving and enhancing lives through donation.

IL serves as the Organ Procurement Organization (OPO) for Maryland, as well as Washington, D.C. and Northern Virginia. As one of 56 OPOs certified by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), and a member of the Organ Procurement and Transplantation Network (OPTN), IL coordinates the donation process throughout our service area. When a hospital recognizes an individual has suffered a non-recoverable injury or has died, the healthcare team contacts IL. Our dedicated team then evaluates the potential donor for medical suitability, checks local and national registries for donor designation status, discusses donation with family members, and arranges the recovery and transportation of donated organs to the transplant center which has accepted this generous gift of life.

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We also provide extensive bereavement support for donor families following their loved one's donation. Every day we have the privilege of supporting families who honored the designated wishes of their loved ones; we see the meaning and comfort it brings them to know that this is what their family member wanted. Any opportunity for individuals to designate their wishes ensures that our organization, when the time comes, can work with their family to honor their intent to save the lives of fellow citizens.

On behalf of IL, we offer our full support for HB1068. Offering the opportunity for Marylanders to designate their wishes to be an organ, eye, and tissue donor on their state income tax form expands their ability to document their generous intent to help others. It also ensures more individuals in need of a life-saving transplant are offered this precious gift. Maryland would join Michigan as one of the first states in the country to offer this option.

Thank you for your consideration and for all that you do on behalf of Marylanders every day. We welcome the opportunity to answer any questions you might have or share additional information regarding the positive impact this bill would provide.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Karen Kennedy".

Karen Kennedy, MSN, RN  
Vice President of External Affairs and Education  
Infinite Legacy

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