



Written Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 793

March 4, 2026

Honorable Guy Guzzone, Chair
Budget and Taxation Committee
Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

Chair Guzzone, Vice Chair Rosapepe, and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of Donate Life Maryland, we respectfully submit this testimony in support of Senate Bill 793, presented by Senator Lam, which establishes a state income tax credit for employers that provide paid organ donation leave.

Donate Life Maryland works to increase organ, eye, and tissue donation awareness and registration across the state, and we see every day the life-saving impact of living donation. For the over 2,100 Maryland residents waiting for a transplant, a living donor is often their best—and sometimes only—chance at survival.

However, one of the most significant barriers for potential living donors is financial. Donors frequently face lost wages during surgery and recovery, along with concerns about job security. Even individuals who are willing to donate may be unable to do so if they cannot afford time away from work. Senate Bill 793 directly addresses this challenge.

By providing a tax credit to qualified employers that offer paid organ donation leave at 100% of an employee's wages, this legislation:

- Removes a critical financial barrier for living donors
- Encourages employers to support employees making lifesaving decisions
- Promotes equity so donation is possible regardless of income or job type
- Strengthens Maryland's leadership in public health and donor support

This bill recognizes that living organ donors perform an extraordinary act of compassion and public service. No Marylander should have to choose between saving a life and maintaining financial stability. Supporting employers through a tax credit is a thoughtful, balanced approach that benefits donors, recipients, families, and workplaces alike.

Expanding living donation has far-reaching benefits. It shortens transplant waitlists, improves survival rates, reduces long-term healthcare costs, and gives recipients the opportunity to return to work, family life, and community engagement. Policies that support living donors ultimately strengthen the health and resilience of our entire state.



Senate Bill 793 sends a powerful message: Maryland values and supports those who step forward to save others. By reducing financial barriers and encouraging employer participation, this legislation will help make lifesaving donation more accessible to all.

Donate Life Maryland respectfully urges a favorable report on Senate Bill 793.

Thank you for your leadership and commitment to the health and well-being of Maryland residents.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lisa M. Spicknall".

Lisa Spicknall
Executive Director
Donate Life Maryland



Saving and enhancing lives by registering organ, eye and tissue donors.

Donate Life Maryland (DLM) is the state-authorized nonprofit organization responsible for managing the Maryland Donor Registry.

Established in 2007 DLM works closely with the federally designated nonprofit organ procurement organization serving Maryland, Infinite Legacy (IL). Along with working closely with IL, DLM also has a strong partnership with the Maryland Department of Transportation Motor Vehicle Administration.

In addition to managing and operating the Maryland Donor Registry, DLM, in partnership with Infinite Legacy, helps educate the public about organ, eye and tissue donation and how to register as a donor in Maryland.

VISION

EVERY Marylander can make an educated decision about organ, eye and tissue donation and registering as a donor.

Quality Commitment

In collaboration with our OPO partner, we strive to further our mission of saving and enhancing lives by registering organ, eye and tissue donors.

**Registered over
2.8 Million Donors**

**Lobbied for numerous
lifesaving laws in Maryland**

**Provides outreach and education on the
importance of organ, eye, and tissue donation**

**Since
2009**

Over 2,100 Marylanders are currently waiting for a life-saving transplant.

www.donatelifemaryland.org



info@donatelifemaryland.org



THE NUMBERS

Donate LifeSM is the national symbol for the cause of organ, eye and tissue donation.

The Need is Great

More than **100,000** people are waiting for lifesaving organ transplants.



More than **48,000** organ transplants from 24,000 donors brought new life to patients and their families in 2024.



Every **8** minutes another person is added to the waiting list.

Did You Know?

60% of organ, eye and tissue donors are authorized by registries.

More than **78,000** corneal transplants helped to restore sight in 2023.



13 people die each day because the organs they need are not donated in time.



More than **2.5 million** tissue transplants heal lives each year.



More than **170 million** people are registered organ, eye and tissue donors. Thank you to all donors, donor families, registered donors and champions of the Donate Life cause!

Pediatric Donation and Transplantation

More than **2,100** children under the age of 18 are on the national transplant waiting list.



More than **1,900** children were saved by the generosity of donors and donor families in 2024.

Deceased Donation



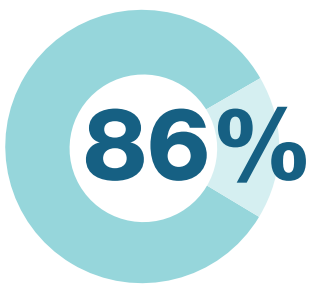
1 Organ, Eye and Tissue Donor

Saves up to
8
lives

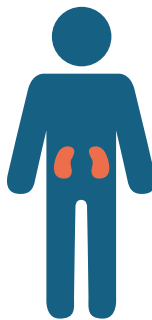
Restores sight to
2
people

Heals the lives of more than
75
people

Living Donation



of patients waiting are in need of a kidney.



Living donors can provide a kidney or a portion of their liver to a waiting patient.*

*Living donation is not included in your donor registration.

Did You Know?

The liver is the only organ that grows back! The donated part of the liver regrows in 4 months.

Learn more at [DonateLife.net](https://www.donatelife.net)



Top Frequently Asked Questions

Does registering as a donor change my patient care?

No, your life always comes first. Doctors work hard to save every patient's life, but sometimes there is a complete and irreversible loss of brain function. The patient is declared clinically and legally dead. Only then is donation an option.

Does donation affect funeral plans?

Funeral arrangements of your choice are possible, including a viewing. Through the entire donation process the body is treated with care and respect. Following donation, funeral arrangements can continue as planned.

Does my religion support organ, eye and tissue donation?

All major religions support donation as a final act of compassion and generosity.

Does my social and/or financial status play any part in whether or not I will receive an organ if I ever need one?

No. A national system matches available organs from the donor with people on the waiting list based on blood type, body size, how sick they are, donor distance, tissue type and time on the list. Race, gender, income, celebrity and social status, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression does NOT prevent someone from registering as an organ donor.

What can I do to increase organ, eye and tissue donation?

1 Register your decision to be a donor at [Register.DonateLifeMaryland.org](https://www.Register.DonateLifeMaryland.org).

2 Tell your family and friends about your decision to *Donate Life*.

3 Visit [DonateLife.net](https://www.DonateLife.net) to discover ways you can be a champion of the cause.

4 Ask others to visit [DonateLifeMaryland.org](https://www.DonateLifeMaryland.org) to learn more and register.