

Good afternoon,

My name is Allyson Gonzalez, I am a twelfth grader in the Biomedical Allied Health Magnet Program at Glen Burnie High School, in Anne Arundel County. I am testifying today in support of House Bill 1050 and urge the Committee to vote in support of this legislation.

House Bill 1050 ensures that students are taught about organ, eye, and tissue donation, with the information coming from trusted experts. It requires the State Department of Education to consult with the nonprofit that operates Maryland's donor registry, so the materials are age appropriate, medically accurate, evidence based, and consistent with Maryland laws.

This bill is important to me because many people my age are living with uncertainty and fear, often guided by misinformation through peers and social media. This can make serious topics like organ donation feel confusing and intimidating. Providing medically accurate and evidence based information can help replace the uncertainty with understanding, empowering students to make informed choices.

Thank you, Chair and members of the Committee, for your time and consideration. As students, we are learning to make decisions that shape our future and with accurate information especially on important health topics that can make an impact in people's lives. House Bill 1050 ensures that students receive adequate information about organ donation giving students confidence in their health related decisions. I respectfully ask you to support and pass House Bill 1050.