



Written Testimony in Support of House Bill 1410

March 4, 2026

Honorable Jheanelle K. Wilkins, Chair
Ways and Means Committee
Taylor House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

Chair Wilkins, Vice Chair Feldmark, and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of Donate Life Maryland, we respectfully submit this testimony in support of House Bill 1410, presented by Delegate Simmons, 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. House Bill 1410 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.



House Bill 1410 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 House Bill 1410.

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



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