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Chairman Brinkman, Vice Chair Antani and Ranking Member Boggs, thank you for allowing me to submit proponent testimony today in support of House Bill 41. My name is Todd Pesavento and I am a transplant doctor at OSU Medical Center.

Living donors are heroes today as they selfishly agree to donate either their kidney or part of their liver to help give the gift of life to others in need. In Ohio alone nearly 300 people each year are live donors with nearly 3000 people donating over the last decade. There are risks associated with this major surgery, some of which are noted below:

Death: rate for kidney donation of 3 per 10,000 donors and about 30 per 10,000 liver donors

Complication rates: for liver donors can range from 30% overall with around 5% being serious complications. Kidney donors have fewer serious complications with typical serious rates being reported at less than 1%

Long-term medical complications can occur including end-stage renal disease, hypertension and complications related to the surgery

Donors have concerns about their ability to be insured given these risks and it has been noted that multiple donors consider this potential occurrence as they decide about whether they are able to donate.

Given the urgent need for organ donation, it is imperative that living donors are given assurance they will not face insurance denials related to their selfless gift of organ donation

Respectfully submitted,

Todd E. Pesavento, MD

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