



NATIONWIDE CHILDREN'S
When your child needs a hospital, everything matters.



**Prevent
Blindness**

Our Vision Is Vision.



**OHIO
OPTOMETRIC
ASSOCIATION**

**OHIO
AMBLYOPE
REGISTRY**



**Ohio
Ophthalmological
Society**

March 2nd, 2021

Chairman Baldrige and Members of the House Transportation and Public Safety Committee—

On behalf of the organizations above, we are writing to express our support for House Bill 21, sponsored by State Representative Kyle Koehler. We appreciate the work of the bill sponsor and proponents in crafting this important legislation.

The goal of HB 21 is to increase the number of organ donors in Ohio. The benefits of this are self-evident and our organizations strongly support organ donation, especially its impact on the vision health of Ohioans. Much of the work done to promote organ donation in Ohio is facilitated by the Second Chance Trust Fund (SCTF), which is administered by the Ohio Department of Health (ODH). SCTF is funded primarily by voluntary contributions made by individuals when obtaining or renewing a driver's license or related identification card as well as purchases of the *Donate Life* license plate.

Under this legislation, the voluntary contribution levels for individuals would be increased to generate additional revenue for outreach and awareness activities. Additionally, Ohioans will be asked about becoming an organ donor when they register or renew a motor vehicle registration. Ohioans are already asked about organ donation when obtaining their driver's license, however we feel additional points of inquiry will lead to more Ohioans becoming donors. More donors mean more lives saved by organ donation.

As the grantees for another ODH program, the Save Our Sight Fund (SOSF), we are well aware of the great work being done by SCTF. Further, as advocates for vision health and safety, we know how important cornea donors are to giving others the gift of sight. Both the SCTF and SOSF are voluntary programs that have had an extraordinary impact since their creation more than two decades ago. They are national models for health awareness initiatives and have benefited many Ohioans.

In closing, we once again would like to thank the bill sponsor and proponents for working to craft this important legislation in a way that ensures that both the SCTF and the SOSF have adequate resources to continue their important work on behalf of Ohioans. It is our hope that the committee will quickly move HB 21 without delay. This is an opportunity to save lives and we are grateful for your support of this important measure.

Sincerely,

Sherry Williams
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