



Kevin D. Miller & Rodney Creech
State Representatives

Rep. Miller: Chairman Lipps, Vice Chair Stewart, Ranking Member Liston, and my colleagues on the House Public Health Policy Committee, good morning and thank you for allowing us to provide sponsor testimony on HB 256, which would require ODNR to inquire about organ donation when someone registers for a hunting or fishing license.

Rep. Miller: According to the Health Resources & Services Administration there are currently 104,234 men, women, and children sitting on the national transplant waiting list, with a new person being added every 10 minutes. Ohio alone has over 2,700 registered individuals patiently waiting for an organ transplant procedure. Unfortunately, the demand for life saving organs far outweighs the number of donations, resulting in preventable loss of life. This legislation aims to help reach that demand.

Rep. Creech: By linking the process of registering as an organ donor to hunting and fishing license applications, we have a unique opportunity to reach a large portion of our population. Ohio alone has over 300,000 annual applicants for hunting licenses and 850,000 annual applicants for fishing licenses. This approach will ensure that potential organ donors who otherwise would have not been prompted to register are presented with the opportunity to become a possible life saver.

Chairman Lipps, thank you for allowing us to provide sponsor testimony on this crucial legislation. This bill will take a significant step towards increasing organ donation rates and ultimately saving lives. We are more than happy to take any questions the committee might have.