

October 9, 2023

Dear Chairman Lipps and Members of the House Public Health Policy Committee:

LifeCenter Organ Donor Network (LifeCenter), the Organ Procurement Organization (OPO) serving Southwest, Ohio, would like to express our support for House Bill 256, which will offer Ohioans the opportunity to register as an organ, eye and tissue donor through hunting and fishing license applications.

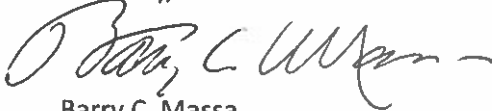
LifeCenter and the three other OPOs serving Ohio in addition to the tissue and eye recovery agencies that facilitate organ, eye and tissue donation, all support this legislation. It will help the more than 2,500 Ohioans waiting for life-saving organ transplants and the more than 103,000 people waiting in the United States. The passage of this legislation is incredibly important as it will empower more people to register to be donors and potentially save the lives of men, women and children battling diseases that require an organ transplant to live.

Passage of House Bill 256 means that Ohio will join 14 other states that offers this additional method for people to register as an organ, eye and tissue donor.

While driver's licenses in Ohio are now renewed every four or eight years, hunting and fishing permits are purchased annually allowing us to reach more Ohioans on a more regular basis.

On behalf of the thousands of patients waiting for the life-saving gift of donation and the Donors and their families who say yes to donation, I want to thank you for your leadership on this issue. I am happy to answer any questions you may have regarding the bill, or any matters related to organ, eye and tissue donation and transplantation.

Sincerely,



Barry C. Massa
Executive Director
LifeCenter Organ Donor Network