

Representative
Kevin Miller

House District 69



Representative
Rodney Creech

House District 40

House Bill 256 Sponsor Testimony

Chairman Huffman, Vice Chair Johnson, Ranking Member Antonio, and the members of the Senate Health Committee, good morning and thank you for allowing us to provide sponsor testimony on HB 256. Simply put, this bill would require ODNR to inquire about organ donation when someone purchases a hunting or fishing license. The process would essentially mirror the current protocol followed when someone obtains their driver's license.

According to the Health Resources & Services Administration over 104,000 men, women, and children are 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.

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. This lifesaving and common-sense piece of legislation passed on the House floor unanimously.

Chairman Huffman, 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.