

April 23, 2024

Chairman Huffman, Vice Chair Johnson, Ranking Member Antonio, and Members of the Senate Health Committee,

Innovation has always been part of what defines Ohio as a pioneering state. From healthcare and agriculture to business and technology, our state continues to create opportunities that contribute to the well-being of its citizens. HB 256 provides one more innovative opportunity for Ohioans to make a donation decision when attaining their hunting and fishing license that could have a save and heal lives and leave a legacy for generations to come.

Lifeline of Ohio is one of the state's four organ procurement organizations (OPOs) responsible for promoting and facilitating organ, eye and tissue donation. We work with our 90 hospital partners and fellow healthcare colleagues in Central and Southeastern Ohio to honor the donation decisions and maximize the opportunities to save and heal lives every day.

In 2023, Lifeline of Ohio honored the donation decisions of 182 donors who shared the gift of life through organ donation at the time of their death. These decisions resulted in 445 lives saved. In addition, 1004 individuals gave the gift of healing and sight through tissue and cornea donation.

These lifesaving and healing milestones speak to the generosity of Ohioans, the strong support for donation in our state and the commitment of our state leaders to improve the health and well-being of our citizens.

Today, more than 100,000 individuals in the United States are waiting for the gift of a life-saving transplant – nearly 3,000 in Ohio – and 17 people die every day because that gift did not arrive in time.

Nearly 60 percent of Ohioans have registered their donation decision in the Ohio Donor Registry – almost 10 percent higher than the national average. But more can be done with additional registration opportunities like the one proposed in HB 256.

Neighboring states such as Michigan, Indiana and West Virginia have already adopted legislation similar to HB 256. With your help, we can ensure the citizens of Ohio have every opportunity to save and heal lives by saying “yes” to organ, eye and tissue donation.

We appreciate your support and advocacy for donation as leaders in our state.

Sincerely,



Andrew Mullins, CEO Lifeline of Ohio