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State Representative | Ohio House District 70

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House Ways and Means Committee – HB 122 Sponsor Testimony

Chair Roemer, Vice Chair Thomas, Ranking Member Troy, and members of the House Ways and Means Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide sponsor testimony today on House Bill 122. Representative Hall and I believe that this bill could meaningfully improve organ donation in Ohio by incentivizing employers to provide paid leave to employees who choose to become a living organ donor.

As you all begin to consider this bill in committee, we wanted to touch on some of the fiscal impact research that was done by our wonderful folks at LSC last GA. Based on age demographics of the average donor, Ohio's adult employment rate, and an approximation of employers that are subject to Ohio's income tax, the maximum estimated number of qualifying employees would have been only about 81 in 2022. So, for these 81 employees, even assuming the maximum employer credit of \$9,000 per employee, the state would only see an estimated \$700,000 in foregone revenue. However, some employers may not even owe enough in state income tax to take full advantage of the credit. Additionally, that estimate is based on the maximum possible credit per employee. If the employee's compensation is less than \$300 per

day, or the employee is out of work for less than 30 days, that number could be substantially lower. In my conversations with members of the National Kidney Foundation, I have learned that while it can take several weeks for donors with physically intensive jobs to return to work, those with office jobs can often return to work in under a month.

These are costs that Ohio can certainly afford, considering the benefit is removing potential barriers to living organ donation and savings lives. Nearly 3,000 Ohioans are waiting on life saving kidney transplants, and we believe that HB 122 can help bring that number down. Thank you for the opportunity to speak to the committee today, and I ask for your support in passing this bill.