



April 28, 2025

The Honorable Bill Roemer
House Committee on Ways and Means
Ohio House of Representatives
Vern Riffe Center
77 South High St
Columbus, OH 43215

Dear Chair Roemer and members of the Committee on Ways and Means:

The American Kidney Fund represents millions of people living with kidney disease, including the 27,220 Ohioans living with kidney failure, also known as end-stage renal disease (ESRD). I am writing today to express support for House Bill 122, and to encourage you to favorably report the bill from the committee.

AKF is the nation's leading nonprofit organization working on behalf of the 1 in 7 Americans living with kidney disease, and the millions more at risk, with an unmatched scope of programs that support people wherever they are in their fight against kidney disease, from prevention through transplant. With programs that address early detection, disease management, financial assistance, clinical research, innovation and advocacy, no kidney organization directly impacts more lives than AKF. We are also one of the nation's top-rated nonprofits, investing 97 cents of every donated dollar in programs.

While most transplanted organs are from deceased donors, patients may also receive organs from living donors. Living donation offers an alternative for individuals awaiting transplantation from a deceased donor and increases the existing organ supply. Over 6,400 living-donor transplants were performed last year in the United States. Kidneys are the most common organ transplanted from living donors, followed by liver and lung. Both living and deceased donation offer hope to over 104,000 people who are waiting for an organ transplant right now—including more than 92,000 who are waiting for a kidney transplant. In addition to transforming the life of the kidney patient, a transplant is a boon to society. The cost of a transplant is lower than long-term kidney dialysis, and it gives the transplant recipient a greater ability to remain in or return to the workforce.

Living organ donation is a critical need for many but the decision to donate an organ is not one made lightly. This is why AKF strongly supports legislation that establishes protections and support for living donors, including HB 122 by Reps. Thomas Hall and Brian E. Lampton. HB 122 establishes a tax credit for employers who choose to offer paid leave to employees for the purpose of organ donation. This important bill will help more organizations and businesses offer paid organ donation leave, which will in turn, support Ohioans who wish to donate the gift of life.

The decision to become a living organ donor is a serious one that requires a range of considerations with respect to a person's health, family and employment. We believe that providing incentives and removing financial burdens for living donors can lead to an increase in organ donations. For these reasons, we hope you

will report HB 122 out of committee. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me directly at any time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jon Hoffman". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial "J".

Jon Hoffman
Senior Director, State Policy and Advocacy
American Kidney Fund