



May 13, 2021

Representative Thomas Brinkman  
Chair  
House Insurance Committee  
77 South High Street  
11th Floor  
Columbus, OH 43215

Dear Chair:

On behalf of the Polycystic Kidney Disease Foundation, I write to share our strong support for HB 188, the Living Donor Protection Act.

Polycystic Kidney Disease (PKD) is a chronic, genetic disease affecting over 600,000 Americans, including more than 21,000 people in Ohio. Asymptomatic until its advanced stages, PKD causes uncontrolled cysts to grow in the kidneys, often resulting in kidney failure. To date, there is no cure; dialysis and transplantation are the only treatment options.

HB 188, the Living Donor Protection Act, will bring much-needed protections to Ohioans who choose to give the gift of organ donation. This bill will prevent insurance companies from unfairly raising premiums or canceling coverage for living donors. It also provides tax credits to help offset the costs associated with donation and recovery. Finally, HB 188 will provide paid leave for state employees who serve as living organ donors.

Studies show that on average less than a third of kidney donations come from living donors. Because of the hereditary nature of PKD, family member living donation is often impossible. HB 188 will undoubtedly help promote greater living organ donation by removing unnecessary barriers to donation and protecting donors as they recover.

On behalf of the PKD Foundation and our advocates across the country, we strongly urge you to report HB 188 favorably out of Committee and support its further passage and enactment.

Thank you for your continued commitment to patients and donors.

Best regards,

**Andy Betts**  
President and Chief Executive Officer  
*PKD Foundation*