

May 4, 2021

Chair Manning, Vice Chair McColley, Ranking Member Thomas, and members of the Ohio Senate Judiciary Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide proponent testimony for House Bill 7.

The UC Health Transplant Program provides kidney transplantation services and is the only adult liver, pancreas, and heart transplantation provider in southwestern Ohio. In calendar year (CY) 2020, the UC Health Transplant Program performed over 300 organ transplant procedures. Historically, our transplant program has performed living donation procedures for 53 years, and currently our transplant surgeons perform approximately 100 living donor transplants yearly. Importantly, we can also provide a unique perspective in that our physicians, who are also University of Cincinnati College of Medicine faculty, have authored over a dozen publications in the scientific literature that have focused on defining the types of ethical and medical protections that are unique for living organ donors.

Sadly, patient demand for an organ donation far exceeds the supply of living organ donors and deceased organ donation. According to the Health Resources and Services Administration, seventeen people pass away every day waiting for an organ transplant. Every nine minutes, another individual is added to the transplant waiting list. UC Health supports every measure taken to expand awareness of organ donation and policies that improve Ohio's organ donation system¹.

Under current Ohio law, individuals can declare their intent to be an organ donor by noting this on their will. However, when an organ donor passes away, clinicians must quickly act to ensure their gift of life can be shared with a patient on the transplant waiting list—many times all this takes place within 24 hours. This is difficult to accomplish when this declaration is executed through a will because those documents are not easily accessible by the hospital. When time is of the essence, time cannot be wasted by searching for a will to determine if an individual is an organ donor. House Bill 7 would address this issue by eliminating this provision in Ohio law, thereby allowing attorneys to notify their clients of the ability to become an organ donor by contacting the Ohio Bureau of Motor Vehicles or signing up directly with Donate Life America. This legislative reform could greatly benefit patients and save lives.

UC Health strongly supports House Bill 7 and is grateful for Representatives Grendell and Stewart's leadership on this important issue. Please contact me with any questions or if I can provide any further information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Corey King'.

Corey King, M.B.A., M.H.A.

Executive Administrative Director, Transplantation Services, UC Health

¹ <https://www.organdonor.gov/statistics-stories/statistics.html>