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February 9, 2024

Dear Honorable Members of the 135th General Assembly,

On behalf of Lifebanc, a member of the donation and transplant community, we appreciate this opportunity to express support for H. B. No. 224 2023-2024. Passage of this bill will allow for dedicated organ recovery vehicles to utilize lights and sirens to reduce delays for organ recovery and the transporting of teams and lifesaving organs.

We support the bill language that only experienced emergency drivers will operate organ recovery vehicles. Additionally, this model will create capacity for critical care ambulances, currently requested for organ and team transport, to remain in service and available for traditional emergency patient care and transfers.

I personally have overseen operations at transplant centers and now at an organ procurement organization, I also served as an emergency medical technician early in my career. I understand the responsibility for emergency light and siren usage and I am confident organ recovery vehicles will only be utilized when there is a risk of losing an organ donor or an organ designated for transplantation. In fact, in other states I have worked, lights and sirens are utilized for organ recovery vehicles when time is critical.

As I write this more than 103,000 people remain on the national waitlist and 2,440 are waiting here in Ohio. I urge all members of the 135th General Assembly to support passage of this important bill and help ensure we maximize all gifts of life.

If there is additional information I can provide, please contact me at micahd@lifebanc.org.

Thank you,

Micah Davis, MBA
Chief Operations Officer
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Enclosure: Witness Form

Lifebanc is Northeast Ohio's non-profit organ, eye and tissue recovery organization with a mission to save and heal lives. The organization serves over 4 million people and works with 80 hospitals in a 20-county area. Lifebanc facilitates the organ, eye and tissue recovery and donation processes, provides extensive care and support services to donor families, as well as coordinates community outreach and education programs to encourage registration on the Ohio Donor Registry. **For more information on Lifebanc or to register as an organ, eye and tissue donor visit www.lifebanc.org.**