



THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

**Testimony in Support of HB 10
Income Tax - Subtraction Modification - Living Organ Donors**

Madam Chair, Mr. Vice Chairman and esteemed members of the Ways and Means Committee,

HB 10 seeks to provide individual organ donors with tax credits to help cover certain non-medical expenses incurred during the period of organ donation. At present, the Maryland tax code provides a \$7,500 tax credit. This bill increases that amount to \$10,000 through a subtraction modification to the current tax code sections 10-208(a) and 10-208(w). This legislation is more crucial than ever due to the severe negative impact the COVID-19 pandemic has had on organ donation.

While most transplanted organs are from deceased donors, patients may also receive organs from living donors. Living donors are essential to supplement the existing organ supply from deceased donors. Over 6,000 living-donor transplants were performed in the last two years in the United States. Kidneys are the most common organ donated by living donors, followed by liver and lung donations. Both living and deceased donations offer hope to the more than 109,000 people waiting for an organ transplant including around 3,700 Marylanders.

HB 10 recognizes that on average 22 Marylanders die each day because organs are not available for donation. In cases where a living donor could provide a kidney or bone marrow transplant, an impediment to the donation process is often the high costs of non-medical expenses. Some of these expenses include travel, lodging, and/or lost wages. We believe that providing incentives and removing financial burdens for living donors can lead to an increase in organ donations. The Society of Nephrology has reported that living kidney donations have decreased steadily since 2005, and suggests that the decline may be due to a financial barrier.

HB 10 is consistent with a national trend that encourages living donors to make the life saving decision to donate a kidney, pancreas, intestine, lung, or bone marrow

without the burden of expenses that can be as high as \$20,000. Currently, 14 states, including Arkansas, Georgia, Iowa, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Mississippi, New Mexico, New York, Rhode Island, Utah, North Dakota, Ohio, and Wisconsin, issue \$10,000 in tax credits to cover non-medical expenses associated with organ donation.

When residents of Maryland are deciding to make the life-saving choice of organ donation, non-reimbursable expenses should not be a barrier. For these reasons, I urge you to support HB 10, and I request a favorable report.

Thank you,



Delegate Karen Lewis Young