

HB

337

SENATE COMMITTEE REPORT

DATE: 2/25/04

FURTHER: Finance

DATE TURNED IN TO OFFICE: 3/26/04

State Affairs Committee considered CS FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 337(FIN)

HB 337 ANATOMICAL GIFTS REGISTRY

"An Act relating to anatomical donor registries, to an anatomical gift awareness fund, to an anatomical gift awareness program, to motor vehicle licenses and registrations, and to state identification cards."

and recommends:

- be replaced with _____ CS _____ (_____)
- adopt previous _____ CS _____ (_____)
- attached amendment(s)
- adopt Letter of Intent by _____ Committee
- further referral to _____ Committee

Senate Bill:	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Same Title
<input type="checkbox"/>	New Title
House Bill:	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Same Title
<input type="checkbox"/>	Technical Title Change
<input type="checkbox"/>	New Title w/ SCR # _____

NEW FISCAL NOTE(S):

Department	Date	Fiscal	Zero	Indet.	FN#

PREVIOUS FISCAL NOTE(S):

Department	Date	Fiscal	Zero	Indet.	FN#
DHASS	1/20/04		✓		1
DOA	1/13/04	✓			2

APPROPRIATION - no fiscal note

SIGNATURES AND RECOMMENDATIONS:	DO PASS	DO NOT PASS	NO REC	AMEND
<i>John G. Caudery</i>	✓			
<i>Robert [unclear]</i>	✓			
<i>[unclear]</i>				✓
CHAIR: <i>[Signature]</i>	X			

FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA
2004 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Fiscal Note Number: 1
 Bill Version: CSHB 337(STA)
 (H) Publish Date: 1/28/04
 Dept. Affected: Health & Social Services
 RDU: Public Health
 Component: Community Health/EMS Services

Revision Date/Time (Note if correction):
 Title: ANATOMICAL GIFT ACT

Sponsor: MCGUIRE
 Requester: STATE AFFAIRS COMM

Component No. 2078

Expenditures/Revenues (Thousands of Dollars)

Note: Amounts do not include inflation unless otherwise noted below.

OPERATING EXPENDITURES	FY 2005	FY 2006	FY 2007	FY 2008	FY 2009	FY 2010
Personal Services						
Travel						
Contractual						
Supplies						
Equipment						
Land & Structures						
Grants & Claims						
Miscellaneous						
TOTAL OPERATING	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

CAPITAL EXPENDITURES						
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CHANGE IN REVENUES (0)						
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FUND SOURCE (Thousands of Dollars)

1002 Federal Receipts						
1003 GF Match						
1004 GF						
1005 GF/Program Receipts	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
1037 GF/Mental Health						
Other(Specify Type-do not abbreviate)						
TOTAL	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Estimate of any current year (FY2004) cost: _____

Mark this box (X) if funding for this bill is included in the Governor's FY 2004 budget proposal:

POSITIONS

Full-time						
Part-time						
Temporary						

ANALYSIS: (Attach a separate page if necessary)

HB 337 establishes a Donor Registry Program. It is unclear whether the legislation requires the registry program to be established within the Department of Health and Social Services. If DHSS is the responsible agency for the Donor Registry program a revised fiscal note will have to be submitted.

Prepared by: Janet Clarke
 Division: Administrative Services
 Approved by: Joel S. Gilbertson, Commissioner
 Agency: Department of Health and Social Services

Phone 465-1630
 Date/Time 01/19/2004
 Date 01/20/2004

FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA
2004 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Fiscal Note Number: 2
Bill Version: CSHB 337(FIN)
(H) Publish Date: 2/19/04

Revision Date/Time (Note if correction): _____ Dept. Affected: Administration
Title "An act relating to anatomical donor registries..." RDU Division of Motor Vehicles
Component Motor Vehicles
Sponsor Rep. McGuire
Requester (H) State Affairs Component No. 2348

Expenditures/Revenues (Thousands of Dollars)

Note: Amounts do not include inflation unless otherwise noted below.

OPERATING EXPENDITURES	FY 2005	FY 2006	FY 2007	FY 2008	FY 2009	FY 2010
Personal Services						
Travel						
Contractual	7.0					
Supplies						
Equipment						
Land & Structures						
Grants & Claims						
Miscellaneous						
TOTAL OPERATING	7.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

CAPITAL EXPENDITURES						
-----------------------------	--	--	--	--	--	--

CHANGE IN REVENUES ()						
-------------------------------	--	--	--	--	--	--

FUND SOURCE (Thousands of Dollars)

1002 Federal Receipts						
1003 GF Match						
1004 GF						
1005 GF/Program Receipts						
1037 GF/Mental Health						
1108 Statutory Designated Prog. Rec	7.0					
TOTAL	7.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Estimate of any current year (FY2004) cost: 0.0
Mark this box (X) if funding for this bill is included in the Governor's FY 2005 budget proposal:

POSITIONS

Full-time						
Part-time						
Temporary						

ANALYSIS: (Attach a separate page if necessary)

HB 337 will streamline the process in which DMV transfers information relating to organ donors. The bill incorporates our new digital driver's license design by adding the universal symbol of organ donor onto the license. Donor information will be transferred to Life Alaska in a fashion similar to information sent to Division of Elections.

Prepared by: Duane Bannock Phone 269 5008
Division: Motor Vehicles Date/Time 2/13/04 1:16 PM
Approved by: Mike Miller, Commissioner Date 2/13/2004
Agency: Dept. of Administration

Alaska State Legislature

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Representative Lesil McGuire

Chair, Judiciary Committee

HB 337

"An Act relating to anatomical donor registries, to an anatomical gift awareness fund, to an anatomical gift awareness program, and to motor vehicle licenses and registrations."

SPONSOR STATEMENT

Currently there are over 90,000 men, women and children waiting for organ transplants nationwide, of which 85 are Alaskans. In addition, many more of your fellow Alaskans are currently waiting for tissue (bone, tendon, skin, heart valve, cornea) donations. While 66 people receive organ transplants in the U.S. every day, another 17 people on the waiting list will die because not enough organs are available.

Alaskans have always been known for their generosity and caring for their neighbors and the Uniform Anatomical Gift Act continues this long tradition. This legislation creates a donor registry program in which a donor's License/ID information can be transferred to Life Alaska Donor Services, the state's organ & tissue donor program. Should the donor not want to have their information transferred to the donation program, the donor can choose not to participate. Also the donor can opt out of the program at any time and their information will be removed from the registry.

Currently, the licensee's donor status is only located as a printed statement on the physical ID and not within the DMV database. This lack of a registry creates a problem for donation in a timely fashion. The DMV currently keeps no records of the Licensee's status; therefore the donation program may not realize the donor's wishes or may realize the donor's wishes too late for the donation to be medically acceptable.

With this legislation, the donor's status and other information will be available to Life Alaska Donor Services so that the donor's gift may be realized with or without the donor having their License/State ID card at the time of death. This will also allow Life Alaska to quickly ascertain the donor status of the Licensee and match the donor's gift with a suitable recipient.

In addition to the creation of the registry, HB 337 will create a monetary donation program in which a motor vehicle applicant may donate \$1 or more to the Organ & Tissue Donation Awareness Fund. The purpose of the fund is to promote organ & tissue donation and to administer the Organ & Tissue Donation Awareness Fund. Although the donation is voluntary the Department of Motor Vehicles will make information on the importance of organ donation available to all applicants.

Similar bills have already been passed in Washington and Montana in 2003 with great success. Please support this bill, so that Life Alaska Donor Services will have quick and efficient access to information that will ultimately save the life of you or a loved one.

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January 20, 2004



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Representative Lesil McGuire
State Capitol Room 118
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Representative McGuire,

LifeCenter Northwest recognizes the right of every individual to determine the disposition of his organs and tissues upon his death. House Bill 337 is about honoring an individual's legally documented intent to donate organs. I hope you will help drive this legislation forward.

As individuals make decisions about organ donation, it is important to assure them that their decisions will be upheld. House Bill 337 will create a registry to be responsible to the thousands of Alaska residents who have already made the decision to be organ and tissue donors, by marking "organ donor" on their driver's licenses or signing donor commitment cards.

Successful passage will bring Alaska up to speed with 31 other states that have already implemented formal organ and tissue donation registry systems in the last two years, and make Alaska's law consistent with the existing Alaska Uniform Anatomical Gift Act and the federal Anatomical Gift Act.

An organ and tissue donation registry in the state of Alaska will provide access to the wishes of the deceased. This information will be accessed only by certified procurement organizations and will be kept confidential and protected. Information will not be sold or shared. Registry information is for the express purpose of determining a deceased individual's wishes regarding organ and tissue donation.

Voting in favor of House Bill 337 will save lives. On behalf of our donor families and the patients waiting for life-saving transplants in Alaska, we thank you for your recognition of the importance of this legislation and your support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jill Steinhaus".

Jill Steinhaus
Director of Development

C: Representative L. McGuire
B. Zalneraitis
D. Bannock

Enclosure

Alaska

Montana

Northern Idaho

Washington

ORGAN DONOR NETWORK



February 3, 2004

Honorable Peggy Wilson, Chair
House Health, Education and Social Services Committee
Alaska State Capitol, Room 104
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

Dear Chair Wilson:

RE: HB 337 (McGuire) – Support

On behalf of the AARP members in Alaska, we encourage your colleagues on the House Health, Education and Social Services Committee to support HB 337, on an anatomical donor registry for Alaska, sponsored by Representative Lesil McGuire and co-authored by Representatives Gruenberg, Gatto, Seaton, Kerttula, Heinze, Anderson, Dahlstrom, Holm, Kapsner, Meyer and Samuels and you.

AARP believes that pre-planning should take place when one considers organ donation and that this planning should be conducted to enable the most effective use of donations for those in need. HB 337 will establish, within the DMV database, a donor registry program that is voluntary and can be transferred to Life Alaska Donor Services.

HB 337 also establishes a voluntary monetary donation program to further public education efforts on organ donation.

Any efforts that can be implemented by Alaska to assist willing organ donations to citizens who are in need are welcome.

AARP recommends an "AYE" vote on HB 337.

Should you have any questions about our position, please feel free to contact Marie Darlin, Coordinator of the AARP Capital City Task Force (907- 586-3637); Patrick Luby, AARP Legislative Representative (907-762-3314); or me (907-245-5259).

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Marguerite Stetson

Marguerite Stetson
AARP State Coordinator for Advocacy
3009 Northwood Street
Anchorage, AK 99517-1871
907-245-5259 (voice)
907-245-5279 (fax)
ffmas@aurora.uaf.edu

CC: Vice-Chair Carl Gatto
Representative John Coghill
Representative Paul Seaton
Representative Kelly Wolf
Representative Sharon Cissna
Representative Mary Kapsner
Marie Darlin
Patrick Luby


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Myths About Organ Donation

Some people have opted not to be an organ donor based on urban legends and other myths. We understand that you might have concerns about donation but want to be sure your decision about organ donation is based on the facts. Test yourself with the questions below – how well do you know the facts about organ donation?

- If I'm admitted into the hospital and the doctors know I want to be a donor, they won't try and save my life.
- I carry a donor card and it is in my will that I want to be a donor, so I don't have to tell my family about my wishes.
- I have heard about people who steal kidneys and sell them on the black market.
- Rich and famous people are moved to the top of the waiting list and regular people have to wait even longer.
- Donation will be costly to my family.
- My religion doesn't allow organ and tissue donation.
- I can't be a donor because I want an open casket funeral.
- No one will want my organs because of my medical history. Besides I'm too old to be a donor.
- They might take my organs before I am really dead.

"If I'm admitted into the hospital and the doctors know I want to be a donor, they won't try and save my life."

There is no conflict between saving lives and using organs for transplantation. Medical professionals will do everything they can to save your life. The doctors who work to save your life are not the same doctors involved with organ donation. It is only after every attempt has been made to save your life that donation will be considered.

"I carry a donor card and it is in my will that I want to be a donor, so I don't have to tell my family about my wishes."

Designating your wishes on your driver's license or signing a donor card ensures that you'll be considered as a donor. By the time your will is read, it will be too late to recover your organs. Telling your family now that you want to be an organ and tissue donor is the best way to ensure that your wishes are carried out.

"I have heard about people who steal kidneys and sell them on the black market."

There is no evidence of such activity ever occurring in the United States or any other industrialized country. While this tale may sound credible, it has no basis in the reality of organ transplantation. According to the Uniform Anatomical Gift Act of 1984, it is illegal to buy or sell human

organs. Violators are subject to fines and imprisonment. In addition, a national governing body reviews every organ donation and transplant. Strict regulations prevent any type of "black market" existence in the United States.

"Rich and famous people are moved to the top of the waiting list and regular people have to wait even longer."

The organ allocation and distribution system is blind to wealth or social status. The length of time it takes to receive a transplant is influenced by a variety of factors including location, severity of illness, physical characteristics (blood type, weight, genetic typing, and size) and length of time on the waiting list. Factors such as race, gender, age, income or celebrity status are never considered when determining who receives an organ.

"Donation will be costly to my family."

There is no cost to the donor's family for organ and tissue donation. Hospital expenses incurred before the donation of organs in attempts to save the donor's life and funeral expenses remain the responsibility of the donor's family. All costs related to donation are paid for by the organ procurement agency.

"My religion doesn't allow organ and tissue donation."

Most religions throughout the world support organ and tissue donation as a humanitarian act of giving. Transplantation is consistent with the life preserving traditions of these faiths. You are encouraged to discuss donation with your religious or spiritual leader.

"I can't be a donor because I want an open casket funeral."

The body is treated with a great deal of respect and dignity. The recovery of organs and tissues is conducted under standard, sterile conditions in an operating room by qualified surgeons. The process neither disfigures the body, nor changes the way it looks in a casket. No one, except the family members involved in the decision, will know about the donation.

"No one will want my organs because of my medical history. Besides I'm too old to be a donor."

At the time of death, the appropriate medical professionals will review your medical and social history to determine if you are a candidate for donation. Anyone, regardless of age, can be considered for organ donation. With recent advances in transplantation, more people than ever before can donate.

"They might take my organs before I am really dead."

Organ donation is only accepted following the declaration of death by a doctor not involved in transplantation. In order to donate organs, a patient must be declared brain dead. Brain death is the determination of legal death. It is the complete and irreversible loss of all brain function, including the brain stem. Using specific medical criteria, a physician can confirm brain death beyond any doubt.

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Religious Beliefs About Organ Donation

Most major religions support organ donation as a humanitarian gift giving life. If you have questions about donation we encourage you to talk with the leader of your religious community.

- [AME & AME Zion](#)
- [Amish](#)
- [Assembly of God](#)
- [Baptist](#)
- [Brethren](#)
- [Buddhism](#)
- [Catholicism](#)
- [Christian Church \(Disciples of Christ\)](#)
- [Christian Science](#)
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- [Episcopal](#)
- [Greek Orthodox](#)
- [Gypsies](#)
- [Hinduism](#)
- [Independent Conservative Evangelical](#)
- [Islam](#)
- [Jehovah's Witness](#)
- [Judaism](#)
- [Lutheran Church of America](#)
- [Mennonite](#)
- [Moravian](#)
- [Mormon \(Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints\)](#)
- [Pentecostal](#)
- [Presbyterian](#)
- [Protestant](#)
- [Seventh-Day Adventist](#)
- [Shinto](#)
- [Society of Friends \(Quakers\)](#)
- [Unitarian Universalist](#)
- [United Church of Christ](#)
- [United Methodist](#)

AME & AME Zion

(African Methodist Episcopal) Organ and tissue donation is viewed as an act of neighborly love and charity by these denominations. They encourage all members to support donation as a way of helping others.

Amish

The Amish will consent to transplantation if they believe it is for the well being of the transplant recipient. John Hostetler, world-renowned authority on Amish religion and professor of anthropology at Temple University in Philadelphia, says in his book, *Amish Society*, "The Amish believe that since God created the human body, it is God who heals. However, nothing in the Amish understanding of the Bible forbids them from using modern medical services, including surgery, hospitalization, dental work, anesthesia, blood transfusions or immunization."

Assembly of God

The Church has no official policy regarding organ and tissue donation. The decision to donate is left up to the individual. Donation is highly supported by the denomination.

Baptist

Organ and tissue donation is supported as an act of charity. The Baptist Church leaves the decision up to the individual. The nation's largest Protestant denomination, the Southern Baptist Convention, adopted a resolution in 1988 encouraging physicians to request organ donation in appropriate circumstances and to "...encourage voluntarism regarding organ donation in the spirit of stewardship, compassion for the needs of others and alleviating suffering."

Brethren

While no official position has been taken by the Brethren denominations, according to Pastor Mike Smith, there is a consensus among the National Fellowship of Grace Brethren that organ and tissue donation is a charitable act so long as it does not impede the life or hasten the death of the donor or does not come from an unborn child.

Buddhism

Buddhists believe organ and tissue donation is a matter of individual conscience and place a high value on acts of compassion. Reverend Gyomay Masao, president and founder of the Buddhist Temple of Chicago says, "We honor those people who donate their bodies and organs to the advancement of medical science and to saving lives." The importance of letting loved ones know your wishes is stressed.

Catholicism

Catholics view organ and tissue donation as an act of charity and love. Transplants are morally and ethically acceptable to the Vatican. According to Father Leroy Wickowski, Director of the Office of Health Affairs of the Archdiocese of Chicago, "We encourage donation as an act of charity. It is something good that can result from tragedy and a way for families to find comfort by helping others." Pope John Paul II has stated, "The Catholic Church would promote the fact that there is a need for organ donors and Christians should accept this as a "challenge to their generosity and fraternal love" so long as ethical principles are followed."

Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

The Christian Church encourages organ and tissue donation, stating that we were created for God's glory and for sharing God's love. A 1985 resolution, adopted by the General Assembly, encourages, "... members of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) to enroll as organ donors and prayerfully support those who have received an organ transplant."

Christian Science

The Church of Christian Science does not have a specific position regarding organ donation. According to the First Church of Christ Scientist in Boston, Christian Scientists normally rely on spiritual instead of medical means of healing. They are free, however, to choose whatever form of medical treatment they desire - including a transplant. The question of organ and tissue donation is an individual decision.

The Church of the Nazarene

The Church of the Nazarene encourages its members who do not object personally to support donor/recipient anatomical organs through living wills and trusts. Further, they appeal for a morally and ethically fair

distribution of organs to those qualified to receive them (Manual, Church of the Nazarene 1997 - 2001 paragraph 904.2).

Episcopal

The Episcopal Church passed a resolution in 1982 that recognizes the life-giving benefits of organ, blood and tissue donation. All Christians are encouraged to become organ, blood and tissue donors "...as part of their ministry to others in the name of Christ, who gave His life, that we may have life in its fullness."

Greek Orthodox

According to Reverend Dr. Milton Efthimiou, Director of the Department of Church and Society for the Greek Orthodox Church of North and South America, the Greek Orthodox Church is not opposed to organ donation as long as the organs and tissue in question are used to better human life, i.e., for transplantation or for research that will lead to improvements in the treatment and prevention of disease.

Gypsies

Gypsies are a people of different ethnic groups without a formalized religion. They share common folk beliefs and tend to oppose organ donation. Their opposition is connected with their beliefs about the afterlife. Traditional belief contends that for one year after death the soul retraces its steps. Thus, the body must remain intact because the soul maintains its physical shape.

Hinduism

According to the Hindu Temple Society of North America, religious law does not prohibit Hindus from donating their organs. This act is an individual's decision. H.L. Trivedi, in *Transplantation Proceedings*, stated that, "Hindu mythology has stories in which the parts of the human body are used for the benefit of other humans and society. There is nothing in the Hindu religion indicating that parts of humans, dead or alive, cannot be used to alleviate the suffering of other humans."

Independent Conservative Evangelical

Generally, Evangelicals have no opposition to organ and tissue donation. Each church is autonomous and leaves the decision to donate up to the individual.

Islam

The religion of Islam strongly believes in the principle of saving human lives. According to A. Sachedina in his *Transplantation Proceedings* (1990) article, *Islamic Views on Organ Transplantation*, "...the majority of the Muslim scholars belonging to various schools of Islamic law have invoked the principle of the priority of saving human life and have permitted the organ transplant as a necessity to procure that noble end."

Jehovah's Witness

According to the Watch Tower Society, Jehovah's Witnesses believe donation is a matter of individual decision. Jehovah's Witnesses are often assumed to be against donation because of their opposition to blood transfusions. However, this merely means that all blood must be removed from the organs and tissue before being transplanted

Judaism

All four branches of Judaism (Orthodox, Conservative, Reform and Reconstructionist) support and encourage donation. According to Orthodox Rabbi Moses Tendler, Chairman of the Biology Department of Yeshiva University in New York City and Chairman of the Bioethics Commission of the Rabbinical Council of America, "If one is in the position to donate an organ to save another's life, it's obligatory to do so, even if the donor never knows who the beneficiary will be. The basic principle of Jewish ethics, 'the infinite worth of the human being,' also includes donation of corneas, since eyesight restoration is considered a lifesaving operation." In 1991, the Rabbinical Council of America (Orthodox) approved organ donation as permissible, and even required, from brain-dead patients. The Reform movement looks upon the transplant program favorably, and Rabbi Richard Address, Director of the Union of America Hebrew Congregation Bio-Ethics Committee and Committee on Older Adults, states that "Judaic Responsa materials provide a positive approach, and by and large the North American Reform Jewish community approves of transplantation."

The Lutheran Church of America

Lutherans passed a resolution in 1984 stating that donation contributes to the well being of humanity and can be "an expression of sacrificial love for a neighbor in need." They call on "members to consider donating... and to make any necessary family and legal arrangements, including the use of a signed donor card."

Mennonite

Mennonites have no formal position on donation, but are not opposed to it. They believe the decision to donate is up to the individual and/or his or her family.

Moravian

The Moravian Church has made no statement addressing organ and tissue donation or transplantation. Robert E. Sawyer, President, Provincial Elders Conference, Moravian Church of America, Southern Province, states, "There is nothing in our doctrine or policy that would prevent a Moravian pastor from assisting a family in making a decision to donate or not to donate an organ." It is, therefore, a matter of individual choice.

Mormon (Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints)

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints believes the decision to donate is an individual one made in conjunction with family, medical personnel and prayer. Jerry Cahill, Director of Public Affairs for the Mormon Church, says, "Mormons must individually weigh the advantages and disadvantages of transplantation and choose the one that will bring them peace and comfort. The Church does not interpose any objection to an individual decision in favor of organ and tissue donation."

Pentecostal

Pentecostals believe that the decision to donate should be left up to the individual.

Presbyterian

Presbyterians encourage and support donation. They respect a person's right to make decisions regarding his or her own body.

Protestant

Protestants encourage and endorse organ donation. The Protestant faiths respect an individual's conscience and a person's right to make decisions regarding his or her own body. Reverend James W. Rassbach, Lutheran Board of Communication Services, Missouri-Synod, says "We accept and believe that our Lord Jesus Christ came to give life and give it in abundance. Organ donations enable more abundant life, alleviate pain and suffering and are an expression of love in times of tragedy."

Seventh-Day Adventist

Donation and transplantation are strongly encouraged. They have many transplant hospitals, including Loma Linda in California, which specializes in pediatric heart transplants.

Shinto

In Shinto, the dead body is considered to be impure and dangerous, and thus quite powerful. "In old belief context, injuring a dead body is a serious crime..." according to E. Namihira in his article, Shinto Concept Concerning the Dead Human Body. "To this day it is difficult to obtain consent from bereaved families for organ donation or dissection for medical education or pathological anatomy... the Japanese regard them all in the sense of injuring a dead body." Families are often concerned that they not injure the itai, the relationship between the dead person and the bereaved people.

Society of Friends (Quakers)

Organ and tissue donation is widely believed to be an individual decision. The Society of Friends does not have an official position on donation.

Unitarian Universalist

Organ and tissue donation is widely supported by Unitarian Universalists. They view it as an act of love and selfless giving.

United Church of Christ

Reverend Jay Lintner, Director, Washington Office of the United Church of Christ Office for Church in Society, states, "United Church of Christ people, churches and agencies are extremely and overwhelmingly supportive of organ sharing. The General Synod has never spoken to this issue because, in general, the Synod speaks on more controversial issues, and there is no controversy about organ sharing, just as there is no controversy about blood donation in the denomination. Any organized effort to get the General Synod delegates or individual churches to sign organ donation cards would meet with generally positive responses."

United Methodist

The United Methodist Church issued a policy statement regarding organ and tissue donation. In it they state, "The United Methodist Church recognizes the life-giving benefits of organ and tissue donation, and thereby encourages all Christians to become organ and tissue donors by signing and carrying donor cards or a driver's license, attesting to their commitment of such organs upon their death to those in need, as

a part of their ministry to others in the name of Christ, who gave His life that we might have life in its fullness." A 1992 resolution states, "Donation is to be encouraged, assuming appropriate safeguards against hastening death and determination of death by reliable criteria." The resolution further states, "Pastoral-care persons should be willing to explore these options as a normal part of conversation with patients and their families."

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Organ Donation Facts & Statistics

The national transplant waiting list is growing five times faster than the rate of donation. Unless the number of people who make the decision to donate life increases, patients will continue to die while waiting for life-saving transplants. For more statistical information about organ donation visit the [United Network for Organ Sharing](#).

Organs Needed vs. Donations Received

Organ	National		Regional	
	# Needed	# Donors	# Needed	# Donors
Kidney	54,733	8,859	830	218
Liver	17,154	5,177	119	98
Pancreas	1,419	468	16	33
Pancreas Islet	326	--	13	--
Kidney-Pancreas	2,389	--	48	--
Heart	3,747	2,202	68	48
Heart-Lung	195	27	0	1
Lung	3,848	1054	17	44
Intestines	179	112	--	0
Total	81,494	18,783	1,064	444

(Based on UNOS data as of 5/30/2003)

Important Facts:

- More than 81,000 people are currently on the national waiting list for organ life-saving transplants. 1,000 of the people waiting for transplants live in our community!
- Half of the people listed for an organ transplant will not receive one due to the shortage of donated organs. 17 people die each day waiting for life-saving organ transplants.
- A new name is added to the National Transplant Patient Waiting List every 13 minutes.
- One organ donor can save the lives of up to eight people, a tissue donor may enhance the lives of more than 50 individuals.
- Organ donation saves lives!

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ORGAN DONOR NETWORK