

Leta Howard

From: Eliot, Holly <heliot@med.umich.edu>
Sent: Tuesday, June 28, 2011 8:49 AM
To: Leta Howard
Cc: 'tabitha@karoubassociates.com'; Makinen, Tim
Subject: Letter of support for amendment to 1949 PA 300

Senate Committee on Transportation
c/o Leta Howard
Committee Clerk for Senate Transportation
Michigan State Senate

RE: Section 811t amendment to 1949 PA 300 Michigan Vehicle Code

Dear Senators,

As administrator of the University of Michigan Transplant Center, I see firsthand the miracle of life restored through organ transplants. I also witness the tragedy of patients listed for transplant dying before an organ becomes available. For this reason, I heartily endorse the initiative to create a special Michigan license plate recognizing anatomical gift donation. The offering of this license plate will not only financially support further education about organ donation, but will increase visibility of the issue all over the state.

Currently, Michigan ranks 43rd of the 50 states in its rate of organ donor registration. We have an opportunity to turn this dismal statistic around and offer new hope to the thousands of patients waiting on organ donor lists. At least 19 other states have special license plates supporting organ donor registration. The University of Michigan is partnering with Henry Ford Hospital, the Donor Family Council and others to provide startup funds to establish the Michigan license plate. We expect our commitment to be matched by thousands of citizens all over Michigan who will purchase these plates. Together we will spread the word about the organ donor registry and bring Michigan's donation rate up to where it belongs.

Please help us by approving the section 811t amendment to 1949 PA 300. We appreciate your support!

Anne Murphy, MBA
Administrator, Transplant Center
University of Michigan Health System

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