



Saving Lives through Organ Donation

Revised Uniform Anatomical Gift Act To Be Signed Into Law

Governor Gregoire will sign organ donation bill Tuesday, March 25

Seattle, WA—March 24, 2008— Passed through the House and Senate unanimously, the revised Uniform Anatomical Gift Act (UAGA) will be signed into law by Governor Gregoire on Tuesday, March 25, 2008 at 1pm at the Governor's office. This revision has several improvements that benefit transplant recipients, donors, and their families by strengthening language related to donation decisions and enhancing definitions for clarity in the law.

“These revisions to the UAGA will create a donation community in which the donor's wishes are secure and the waiting recipients will, hopefully, dwindle in numbers,” said Diana Clark, CEO of LifeCenter Northwest. “These are positive steps for everyone.”

A few key parts of the UAGA include:

- Updating individual state's UAGA for consistency and to comply with the federal revised UAGA and current donation practice.
- The language strengthens and enhances donation decisions definitions for clarity in the law.
- Uniformity across states can now be accomplished, which is so important in organ donation since transplantation occurs across state boundaries requiring speed and efficiency if the organ is to be successfully transplanted into the recipient.
- Finally, the revised UAGA strengthens the rights of individuals to refuse a gift if they so desire, and preserves the right of parents to revoke a gift by a minor, and clearly identifies the consent process to ensure timely recovery and successful transplantation of organs.

The National Conference of Commissioners on Uniform State Laws promulgated the Uniform Anatomical Gift Act to further improve the system of organ and tissue donation. The original act was promulgated in 1968 and revised in 1987.

“Now that the UAGA has passed in Washington, all of us—donor families, waiting list candidates, recipients, and most of all, donors- receive the assurance that end of life decisions are honored,” says Elaine Morse, the widow of an organ and tissue donor.

One donor can save or enhance the lives of over 50 people. More than 1,500 of our Northwest neighbors – and nearly 100,000 people nationwide – are awaiting a life-saving organ transplant. Sadly, 18 people die each day waiting for a life-saving organ transplant.

About LifeCenter Northwest:

LifeCenter Northwest Organ Donation Network is the nonprofit organ procurement organization (OPO). One of 58 federally-designated OPOs in the United States, LifeCenter saves lives by facilitating the recovery, preservation and allocation of organs in its donor service area of Washington, Alaska, Montana and Northern Idaho.

Please join us to witness this historic bill signing, talk with donor family members and recipients, and learn more about the importance of organ donation.

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