

Michigan House Education Committee,

I am writing on behalf of the Michigan Donor Family Council to support [HB5174](#), which would require imperative education about organ donation and the Donor Registry to all 9<sup>th</sup> graders in Michigan public schools.

Providing this education to students would do more than educate the students; these students will share what they've learned with their families, friends, and people in their community; they will possibly sign up on the registry, saving families a little extra grief if they find themselves in a hospital trying to decide for their loved one if donation is the right decision if they haven't signed up in the registry.

By passing HB5174, you are saving and enhancing countless lives in Michigan.

As you know, over 2,400 Michigan adults are waiting for a life-saving organ transplant. Unfortunately, I know some of the people on this list, and we lost one of our members last year who was on the waiting list.

On a personal note, twenty-six years ago, my 38-year-old sister Ellen passed away suddenly, leaving four small children, and she became a donor because we knew her wishes. Since Ellen's passing, I have had four more family members who became donors.

The Michigan Donor Family Council is proud to support organ donation in our state. For the past 19 years, we have honored our loved ones who decided to donate and celebrate the recipients whose lives were saved while advocating for the importance of donation.

It's unthinkable what a donor family goes through after the death of their loved one. This bill could help families if we educate the public more so that the families in the hospital already know their loved one's wishes.

We'd like to ask for prompt passage of this important legislation. We appreciate your consideration.

Sincerely,

*Patty Jo*

**Patricia Jo Herndon, Donor Sister/Donor Aunt  
CEO, Michigan Donor Family Council**

**Immediate Past Chair, Eversight Board of Directors**

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*Organ Donation Saves and Enhances Lives*

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