



3901 Beaubien Blvd
Detroit, MI 48202

August 20, 2020

Representative Hank Vaupel
Chairman, Health Policy Committee
N-896 House Office Building
P.O. Box 30014
Lansing, MI 48909

Re: Increasing organ transplants in Michigan via the HOPE Act

Dear Chairman Vaupel and members of the Health Policy Committee:

I am writing to voice support for changes to the Michigan Health Code that will increase the number of lives saved in our state by allowing our medical centers to transplant organs in accordance with the federal HIV Organ Policy Equity Act, or HOPE Act. This federal legislation allows organs from HIV-positive donors to be transplanted into recipients who are also HIV-positive.

Gift of Life Michigan, the state's organ and tissue donation program, already recovers organs from HIV-positive donors under the HOPE Act. However, due to outdated language in the Michigan Health Code, we have to send those organs out of state instead of saving patients here. The legislation before you would remove that restriction on transplanting these organs into Michigan patients, bring the state into line with federal law, increase efficiency and give hope to the nearly 2,700 residents waiting for this life-saving gift. The Gift of Life Michigan Governing Board and Advisory Board – including representatives of the state's nine organ transplant programs – endorse this effort to boost the number of organs for transplant for their patients. As the Chief of Transplant Services at Children's Hospital of Michigan, and the surgical director of kidney transplantation, I support this change.

Gift of Life Michigan's mission is to honor life through donation, and one of our key anchors is a push for "one more ...", whether that be one more organ and tissue donor, one more donor registration or one more community outreach event. The full implementation of the HOPE Act in Michigan directly ties into the goal of "one more." Every time someone in our state receives a life-saving transplant that means one less person is waiting, and there is more hope for those still in need. I appreciate your attention to this matter and am happy to address any questions you may have. You may reach me at dkim3@dmc.org.





One focus. One purpose. Your child.

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Detroit, MI 48202

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dean Y. Kim", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Dean Y. Kim, M.D.

Chief, Transplant Services

Children's Hospital of Michigan

Associate Professor of Surgery, FTA

Wayne State University School of Medicine

