



ORGAN DONOR PROTECTIONS ACT (H.B. 2847)

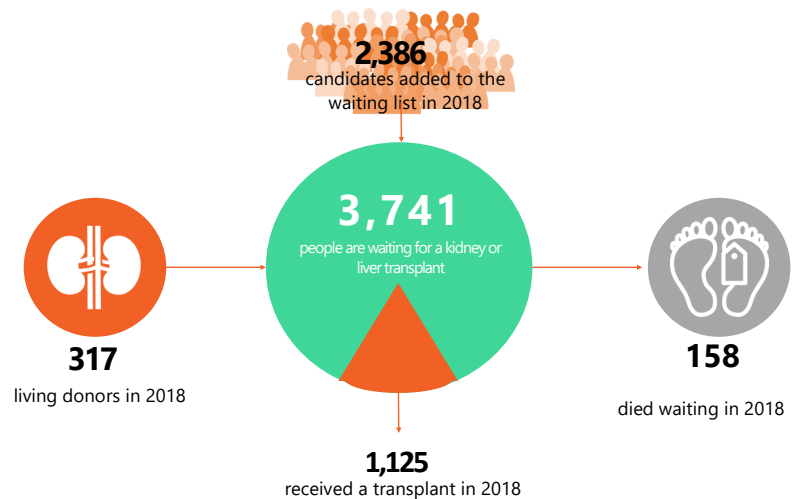
House Lead Sponsor: Deb Conroy

Senate Lead Sponsor: Julie Morrison

ABOUT THE BILL

HB 2847 will protect living organ donors and help remove barriers to donation. Under this act, an employer shall not retaliate against an employee for requesting or obtaining a leave of absence to donate blood, an organ, or bone marrow. HB 2847 also outlines prohibitions on denial of coverage and costs of premiums for living organ donors for life, disability, and long-term care insurance policies.

The optimal treatment for most patients with kidney or liver failure is transplantation. Studies show that the best-functioning, longest-lasting type of transplant comes from a living donor. **But the number of donors falls far too short of the need.** In Illinois:



CURRENT SITUATION

- Kidneys can be donated by a living person in good health.
- However, **nearly 3,500 people** are on the wait list for a kidney transplant in Illinois, and almost 150 people died in 2018 before ever receiving a kidney transplant.
- In 2018, nearly **1,200 kidney transplants** were performed, one-fifth of which were made possible by living donors. Living donors can make a substantial contribution to increasing the number of transplants performed each year.

PROBLEMS & BARRIERS

- Living organ donors experienced higher premiums or denial of insurance coverage, based solely on their organ donor status.
- **There is no state or federal protection** to ensure that donors will not lose their jobs for taking time off for organ donation surgery and recovery.
- Lack of insurance protection, unreimbursed financial costs, higher premiums and loss of jobs are barriers for someone who wants to donate an organ.

WHY A PROTECTION ACT?

- In a 2015 study of living donors, 25% of those who tried to change or initiate life insurance **were rejected or charged higher premiums** based on their status as an organ donor.
- Of the nearly 60,000 kidney donors from 1998 to 2007, **only 11** were added to the transplant waitlist.
- Living donors are saving lives, and to be **negatively impacted medically and financially** for their selfless act can deter future living organ donations.

Questions? Contact the National Kidney Foundation of Illinois for more information.

advocacy@nkfi.org | (312) 321-1500

Sources of facts and statistics:

- Organ Procurement and Transplant Network (OPTN) (2018), United States Renal Data System (USRDS) (2018).
- Boyarsky, B.J., Massie, A.B., Alejo, J. L., Arendonk, K.J., Wildonger, S., Garonzik-Wang, J.M., Segev, D.L. (2014). Experiences Obtaining Insurance After Live Kidney Donation. *American Journal of Transplantation*, 14(9). 2168-2172. doi:10.1111/ajt.12819.