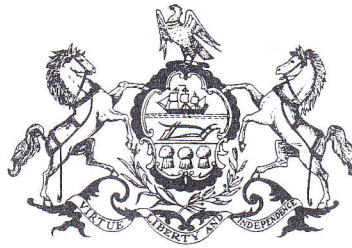


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House of Representatives
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
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MEMORANDUM

DATE: March 29, 2011

TO: Members of the House of Representatives

FROM: Rep. Dan Deasy

SUBJECT: Co-sponsorship of Legislation – Organ Donation Procedures

In the near future, I intend to introduce legislation that would amend Title 20 (Decedents, Estates, and Fiduciaries), in order to make changes to our current organ donor procedures. The decision whether to donate organs can be problematic and difficult, and this legislation will hopefully help donors and their families better clarify their wishes.

Under current law, an individual may elect to become an organ donor via his or her will, driver's license, or individualized donor card. If no clear documentation exists, however, the next of kin is permitted to donate on behalf of the decedent, either in writing or by phone.

My legislation would make three changes. First, it will allow donors and/or next of kin to specify which organs they wish to donate, which may include whole body, organs, tissue, or eyes. Secondly, this legislation would require that donations by the next of kin be made in writing rather than through a recorded telephone conversation. Finally, my legislation would allow family members to receive verification after the donation of what was accepted by the organ procurement organization.

This legislation will ensure that the final wishes of an individual are respected, and will also provide families with better information and better options. Should you wish to co-sponsor this legislation, please contact Louise in my office at 772-8187 or lkoppenh@pahouse.net.