

TO: House of Representatives
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

DATE: May 9, 2014

RE: Public Hearing HB 30 – Donate Life PA

Chairman Cutler, Chairman White and members of the committee:

As a donor family, and on behalf of the thousands of other donor families in Pennsylvania, I passionately urge your support of the Donate Life PA Act, House Bill 30.

Our 16-year old son/brother, Ryan Lee, gave the gift of life in February 2004 after he suffered massive head trauma as the result of a car accident. This decision to be an organ donor was made by Ryan himself one month before his accident when he received his driver's license. Because of Ryan's decision, six people received life-saving transplants and over 100 other people's lives were enhanced through his tissue donations.

Our family has channeled our grief through the creation of a memorial foundation that provides scholarships to graduating seniors from Ryan's high school, makes charitable donations to other organizations in Ryan's memory, and supports and participates in activities that increase organ donation awareness. We have seen first-hand the success of organ donation through the lasting friendships developed with Ryan's transplant recipients. Ryan's life may have been cut short, but he did not die in vain when we see him living on through these transplant recipients.

We know that organ donation has touched the lives of some of the members of the general assembly, and are sure that they have reached out to fellow members in support of this endeavor. Our daughter graduated from nursing school in May 2013 and very little education about organ donation was part of her curriculum. Further education about this issue is necessary in high schools, nursing schools, and medical schools. Too many Pennsylvania citizens are unnecessarily dying because life-saving organs are not available due to many myths that prevent people from becoming donors. Education is the best way to dispel those myths.

Organ donation will touch your life at some point in time, whether it is through a loved one's/friend's need for a transplant or where a loved one/friend dies and the decision to donate needs to be made.

The Donate Life PA Act will save the lives of people awaiting transplants in Pennsylvania. We hope we can count on your support in passing this very important legislation.

Alison, Ron, and Cristen Mohn
Steelton, PA