

ALERT- Why HB 30 should NEVER come out of committee as is!

Dear Republican and Democratic members of the House Judiciary Committee:

Some of you are aware I served as a County Coroner for 12 years. You will hear much testimony in favor of House Bill 30 embellished by terms such as Gift of Life and life-saving organ donations. Just remember for every life they attempt to save they take the life of another. HB 30 expedites this and broadens who can give permission to do so straying from current public policy. Aside from the tremendous infringement upon the impartiality and objectivity of duly-elected coroners and their evidence collection and preservation, HB 30 can also dramatically have an adverse impact on the ability of your local District Attorney (whose association also opposes this bill) to properly prosecute perpetrators of violent crimes and bring justice those individuals who chose to commit murder. I would be glad to discuss this point with any of you personally.

House Bill 30 is by far the most significant public policy change you may ever be asked to make concerning the delicate balance of the preservation of human life. HB 30 was written by and for major, multi-million dollar, for-profit companies who profit by obtaining and re-selling human organs and tissues.

House Bill 30 wants to dramatically expand far beyond current practice who can grant permission for this in the event that “reasonable efforts” were made unsuccessfully to contact immediate family. HB 30 allows Children and Youth Services workers, hospital administrators and even intimate care-givers to sign for you or your loved ones to be human body part donors.

Most concerning, HB 30 will tip the scale in favor of the “body parts business” by expanding when these donations can be secured, from when you are dead, to when you are almost dead – “pending imminent death.” NO policy maker should take this dramatic deviation from the current multi-disciplined approach of determining death lightly, nor move too quickly to change it, by pressure of for-

profit organizations. A significant detailed process of assessments was established decades ago for scientifically determining who was truly, not likely, clinically brain dead with scientific proof of irreversible damage.

This procedure was to be assessed again in 24 hours after the first declaration of “brain death” to preserve your and my ability to maintain life before any consideration for organ and tissue harvest could be considered. This is a decision of public policy that has worked well for decades and should not be changed simply by passing an over-intrusive piece of legislation like House Bill 30. Life is sacred. I worked many years in our local emergency room trying to save many lives but never at the expense of another. HB 30 goes way too far in its reach to end lives prematurely in the desire to obtain highly valuable human body parts. We all want to save lives when we can but the price to do so should not be taken lightly.

Listen to the testimony closely, all of it, because you are being asked to dramatically “up end” current good public policy.

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Public Hearing on House Bill 30