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Program Coordinator and Kidney Donor

The Kidney Foundation of Central Pennsylvania

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To the Honorable Members of the House Finance Committee,

I am writing to provide my full support for House Bill 2179, which proposes a PIT deduction for unreimbursed expenses related to organ donation. As a kidney donor and an employee of The Kidney Foundation of Central Pennsylvania, I can attest to the significance of this bill and its potential positive impact on organ donation rates and the well-being of donors.

I had the privilege of donating one of my kidneys to a peer mentor at the Kidney Foundation of Central PA who was in need of a kidney. The decision to undergo organ donation was not one made lightly, but it was undoubtedly one of the most rewarding experiences of my life. However, like many donors, I faced various expenses throughout the donation process, including medical bills, lodging and travel costs.

House Bill 2179 addresses a crucial aspect of organ donation that often goes overlooked – the financial burden placed on donors. By providing a PIT deduction for unreimbursed expenses related to organ donation, this bill acknowledges the sacrifices donors make and offers tangible support to alleviate the financial strain they may encounter.

As the wife of a kidney transplant recipient and an advocate for organ donation and an employee of The Kidney Foundation of Central Pennsylvania, I have witnessed firsthand the transformative power of organ transplantation. Organ donation not only saves lives but also enhances the quality of life for recipients and their loved ones. However, we must recognize that the decision to donate comes with real costs, both financial and emotional.

By passing House Bill 2179, Pennsylvania has the opportunity to lead the way in supporting organ donors and encouraging more individuals to consider donation. This bill sends a powerful message of appreciation to donors, demonstrating that their selfless act does not go unnoticed or unappreciated.

I urge the members of the House Finance Committee to support House Bill 2179 and recognize the invaluable contribution of organ donors to our communities. Together, we can ensure that organ donation remains a viable option for those in need, without imposing undue financial hardship on the generous individuals who make it possible.

Thank you for considering my testimony and for your dedication to improving the lives of organ donors and recipients in Pennsylvania.

Sincerely,

Lynne Wright, MSW, LSW

Program Coordinator

The Kidney Foundation of Central Pennsylvania