

Rep. Haddock remarks on HB 2179

Thank you, Chair Samuelson and Chair Greiner, for bringing House Bill 2179 before the committee for discussion today. House Bill 2179 provides a \$12,000 deduction from taxable income for unreimbursed expenses incurred by living organ donors. Hopefully no one on the committee has had a direct family member in need of a human organ transplant, but I am sure you probably know someone who is on the current list. A human organ includes all or part of a liver, pancreas, kidney, intestine, lung, or bone marrow. While the organ recipient's health insurance covers the cost of the transplantation, donors may face other out-of-pocket expenses related to donation, such as travel, lodging, food, lost wages for those whose employers do not provide paid sick leave, and related medical expenses not covered by insurance. Sometimes, those costs can be in the thousands of dollars and can be a barrier to donation. This is particularly concerning given that there are more than 8,000 Pennsylvanians on the organ donor waiting list. It is my hope that House Bill 2179 will help encourage more Pennsylvanians to provide life-saving organ donations. Thank you again for considering my bill today, and I look forward to a productive discussion.