



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

William Larkin

## Senator Larkin Helps Senate Pass Lauren's Law—Legislation to Expand Organ Donations in NY State

WILLIAM LARKIN February 24, 2016



Senator Bill Larkin (R,C,I-39<sup>th</sup> District) today helped the Senate pass Lauren's Law, which is designed to increase organ donations throughout the state by requiring individuals who apply for a driver's license to complete the organ donor registry section of the application by selecting either "yes" or "skip this question." Previously, filling out this section had been optional.

The legislation, which is named after Stony Point resident and heart transplant recipient Lauren Shields, was first passed in 2012 and is set to expire in October.

“Right now there are over 10,000 New Yorkers awaiting organ and tissue donations, donations that can save, enhance, and prolong countless lives while giving families and loved ones more time with each other,” said Senator Larkin. “By renewing Lauren’s Law, we are making it easier for New Yorkers to sign up as organ donors and give the gift of life.”

According to the New York State Department of Health, one person who donates organs (hearts, lungs, liver, kidneys, pancreas and intestines) can save up to eight lives, while a tissue donor (corneas, bone, skin, heart valves, tendons, veins, etc.) can improve 12 or more lives by restoring eyesight, helping fight infections in burn patients and preventing the loss of mobility and disability.

“Lauren is a tremendous young woman and her story is a testament to the power of organ donations,” said Larkin. “I applaud her efforts and I am pleased that I can do my part in helping her in her efforts to increase organ donations throughout New York State.”

Lauren’s Law now heads to the State Assembly for their consideration.