



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

Patrick M. Gallivan

Senator Gallivan Joins Colleagues in Passing Bills to Encourage Organ Donations

JIM RANNEY April 18, 2016

| ISSUE: **ORGAN AND TISSUE DONATION**



Senator Patrick M. Gallivan, (R-C-I, Elma) says the New York State Senate recognized April as “National Donate Life” month by passing legislation to encourage more New Yorkers to become organ and tissue donors. The bills focus on enhancing public awareness and increasing the number of New Yorkers who sign up to help save lives through organ, tissue, bone marrow, and blood donation.

“Nearly 10,000 New Yorkers are in need of an organ transplant, but the vast majority of residents are not enrolled in the state’s Donate Life Registry,” Gallivan said. “This legislation raises awareness of the need for organ and tissue donations and encourages New Yorkers to consider participating in this life saving program.

Only 25 percent of potential New Yorkers are enrolled in the New York State Donate Life Registry -- the second lowest rate in the nation. The Senate has been advocating for additional resources and raising public awareness of the importance of organ and tissue donation through legislation and funding. Earlier this month, the enacted state budget included \$1 million to support the New York Alliance for Donation – an increase of \$750,000 over last year – as part of the Senate’s ongoing commitment to help New Yorkers in dire need of transplants.

To further increase public awareness of donation, especially among youth, the Senate passed a bill (S7003) to help educate high school students about organ, tissue, bone marrow, and blood donation. In New York, the current age of consent to register as a bone marrow and organ and tissue donor is 18. The age of consent to donate blood is 17 (or 16 with parental consent). This measure would help high school students make informed decisions when they reach the age of consent by requiring state Education officials to develop recommendations for instruction in blood, bone marrow, organ, and tissue donations and the life saving benefits each provide.

The Senate also passed a bill (S5313A) to help increase the number of organ and tissue donors by lowering the age of consent for New Yorkers who choose to become a donor. New York is one of only four states in the nation that requires an individual be 18 or older to enroll in an organ and tissue donor registry. This leaves young people without a mechanism to document their consent to donate and puts parents in the difficult situation of having to

assume what their teenage child would have wanted should a tragedy occur. This legislation will give New Yorkers aged 16 or older who wish to consent to donation the ability to enroll in the state's Donate Life Registry. However, in the event that the young person may be considered for organ, eye, or tissue donation, the parents of that individual will be notified and given the final authorization for donation to take place.

Another measure (S6952A) would provide an additional opportunity for New Yorkers to document their decision to enroll as an organ and tissue donor. All applicants for health insurance offered through the state health benefit exchange would be provided space during the application process to register for the Donate Life Registry for organ, eye, and tissue donations.

The Senate also passed a bill (S6528) that would make "Lauren's Law" permanent in New York. Lauren's Law is named after 12-year-old heart transplant survivor Lauren Shields of Stony Point, New York, and makes it easier to choose to be a donor when enrolling for a driver's license. The law prohibits a driver's license application from being processed unless the organ donation section is filled out. Applicants have to check a box stating "yes" or "skip this question." Prior to the law's enactment, filling out the organ donation section on the application was optional. The law is currently set to expire in October.

Finally, the Senate passed legislation (S7013A) to help medical transport teams operate within their necessary and sensitive time frames. The bill would add human organ delivery vehicles to the list of authorized emergency vehicles in the state.

The bills will be sent to the Assembly.

RELATED LEGISLATION

2015-S7003

- Introduced

- ◦ In Committee Assembly
 - In Committee Senate

- ◦ On Floor Calendar Assembly
 - On Floor Calendar Senate

- ◦ Passed Assembly
 - Passed Senate

- Delivered to Governor

- Signed By Governor

-

Requires the commissioner of education to make recommendations to the board of regents relating to the adoption of instruction in information relating to blood, bone marrow and organ and tissue donations

March 15, 2016

In Assembly Committee

Sponsored by **John J. Flanagan**

Do you support this bill?

2015-S5313A

- Introduced
- - In Committee Assembly
 - In Committee Senate
- - On Floor Calendar Assembly
 - On Floor Calendar Senate
- - Passed Assembly
 - Passed Senate
- Delivered to Governor
- Signed By Governor
-

Authorizes persons 16 years of age or older to make an anatomical gift

May 13, 2015

Signed by Governor

Sponsored by **Kemp Hannon**

Do you support this bill?

NAY

2015-S6952A

- Introduced
- - In Committee Assembly
 - In Committee Senate
- - On Floor Calendar Assembly
 - On Floor Calendar Senate
- - Passed Assembly
 - Passed Senate
- Delivered to Governor
- Signed By Governor
-

Requires applications for health care coverage through the health benefit exchange to include registration to be an organ donor

March 09, 2016

Signed by Governor

Sponsored by **Kemp Hannon**

Do you support this bill?

2015-S6528

- Introduced
- - In Committee Assembly
 - In Committee Senate
- - On Floor Calendar Assembly
 - On Floor Calendar Senate
- - Passed Assembly
 - Passed Senate
- Delivered to Governor
- Signed By Governor
-

Makes permanent the provisions of Lauren's law, providing for the election to or declining to elect to register in the donate life registry for organ and tissue donation

January 22, 2016

In Assembly Committee

Sponsored by **David Carlucci**

Do you support this bill?

2015-S7013A

- Introduced
- - In Committee Assembly
 - In Committee Senate
- - On Floor Calendar Assembly
 - On Floor Calendar Senate
- - Passed Assembly
 - Passed Senate
- Delivered to Governor
- Signed By Governor
-

Relates to designating human organ delivery vehicles as authorized emergency vehicles

March 16, 2016

In Assembly Committee

Sponsored by [Susan Serino](#)

Do you support this bill?