



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

Jose Peralta

## Senate Unanimously Passes Senator Peralta's Bill Making it Easier in New York to Become an Organ Donor

JOSE PERALTA June 15, 2017

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The New York State Senate unanimously passed Senator Jose Peralta's legislation that will include a space on applications for student loans and aid programs for enrollment in the Donate Life Registry. The bill (S.6196) will increase opportunities for New Yorkers to register as organ donors. New York State currently ranks second to last in the nation per capita when it comes to registered organ donors, this legislation aims to change that.

LiveOnNY, the premier non-for-profit donor organ organization in New York, noted that more than 10,000 New Yorkers throughout the state are waiting for organ transplants. More than 1,600 New York State residents have been on a waiting list for a life-saving organ transplant for more than five years.

"Organ donation saves lives and giving life is the best gift one can give," said Senator Peralta. "Unfortunately, New York is in a state of emergency when it comes to organ donations. Far too many New Yorkers are dying waiting for organs. My bill will increase the number of New Yorkers who become organ donors, simply by offering the option to check the donate life registry box on student loan or student aid applications."

Under the proposal, the student loan and student aid applications will include the question: "Would you like to be added to the Donate Life Registry? Check box for 'yes,' or check the box

'skip question.' Currently, New Yorkers who want to become organ donors can only do so by signing up for the Donate Life Registry at the Department of Motor Vehicles, on voter registration forms, and separate stand-alone forms.