



Washington Senate Transportation Committee
RE: SB 5177 Concerning Organ Transport Vehicles

Jan. 24, 2023

Dear Chair Liias and members of the committee,

On behalf of Washington patients in need of an organ transplant, our organizations offer strong support for Senate Bill 5177.

More than 15,000 Washingtonians are currently living with end stage renal disease (ESRD), also known as kidney failure. Without treatment, kidney failure is fatal. The only known treatment options available are dialysis or a kidney transplant.

And the need goes far beyond the kidney community.

Of the nearly 120,000 Americans waiting for a lifesaving organ transplant, more than 3,000 live in the Pacific Northwest. Roughly 1,330 Washington state residents are on the waiting list for the life changing gift of a kidney transplant, and thousands more are waiting for other organs, tissues, and corneas.

This information is key to understanding how special it is when an organ or tissue is available for transplant purposes, and that these lifesaving gifts must not be wasted.

When an organ or tissue becomes available for donation, it must be transported to the appropriate facility to manage the organ. Studies show for some procedures, the shorter the amount of time the organ or tissue spends in transit, the better the transplant outcomes for the recipient will be.

By allowing appropriately licensed organ transport vehicles to utilize lights, sirens and other important traffic safety equipment, SB 5177 will support safer, more rapid transportation from donor to recipient and will lead to greater health outcomes.

Thank you for considering our organizations' support for this bill.

For more information, please contact:

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