

# Legislative Staff Talking Points

## *for Concerned Kansans Regarding Donation*

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### General Talking Points:

- Throughout the United States the need for organ and tissue donation is significant.
  - **More than 114,000** people currently await lifesaving organ transplants.
  - **Tens of thousands** more await life-enhancing tissue or cornea transplants.
  - On average, **22** people per day die due to lack of available organs for transplants.
- By joining/remaining in the registry, you can:
  - Save as many as **eight** lives which may include releasing two people from burdensome dialysis treatments by donating kidneys.
  - Enhance the lives of **up to 75** more people, which may include giving sight to two people by donating corneas, and helping to repair injured bones, joints and other tissues through bone and tissue donation.

### QUESTION:

#### **Why should I register to donate organs and tissues if my organs will not stay in Kansas?**

- **Nearly 500** Kansans are awaiting lifesaving transplants, by registering to be an organ donor, you are increasing the likelihood that your neighbors will receive lifesaving transplants.
- It is a myth that all organs donated from people in the Kansas registry are flown to other states. Kansas residents still receive and will continue to receive organs from Kansas donors.
- You are in good company! **77%** of Kansans are registered organ and tissue donors.
- Joining/remaining in the donor registry can indirectly increase the likelihood that Kansans living in rural areas, and in the urban core, have affordable access to lifesaving and life sustaining medical care prior to a transplant.
- Midwest Transplant Network, the organ procurement organization in your area, works very hard along with transplant centers and hospitals in the region to ensure that that potential and registered donors in Kansas and Missouri are able to save and improve lives.
- If you would like to learn more about organ and tissue donation, or read stories from donor families and recipients, please visit [www.mwtn.org](http://www.mwtn.org).