



MISSOURI SENATE
JEFFERSON CITY

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April Highlights Organ Donor Awareness

Approximately 101,700 Americans — that's how many candidates nationwide who are on the UNOS ([United Network for Organ Sharing](#)) waiting list to receive an organ donation. According to the [U.S. Department of Health and Senior Services](#), there are 1,740 citizens in our state waiting to receive an organ donation, including kidney, liver, pancreas, heart, lung, and intestine.

The month of April highlights the importance of organ donation through the National Organ Donor Awareness Week (April 20-27). During this time, people observe the significant effort expended by groups around our country who work to inform others about the importance of organ and tissue donation.

The Missouri General Assembly also recognizes the importance of organ donation. As chair of the [Financial, Governmental Organizations and Elections Committee](#), the panel delivered an important measure to the full Senate last year that established a voluntary and confidential organ and tissue donor registry for our state. The Legislature went on to pass [Senate Bill 1139](#), which was signed into law. By revising the Uniform Anatomical Gift Act, the measure creates a first-person consent organ and tissue donor registry. Missourians, however, are under no obligation to add their names to this registry and can withdraw their consent at any time.

Any individual who agrees to have his or her name on the registry gives full legal consent to the donation of any of his or her organs or tissues upon death, making family consent no longer required if the donor is 18 years of age or older. Before, a family member had to make the final decision regarding organ donation.

If you wish to participate in this organ donation program, join the Missouri organ and

tissue donor registry; inform your loved ones about your important decision; and complete the organ donation information on the back of your state driver's license.

The decision is in your hands. One choice can affect hundreds of people. For more information on organ and tissue donation or how to enroll in the registry, visit the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services' website at www.dhss.mo.gov/OrganDonor.

And if you have comments or questions about any matter involving state government, please feel free to contact me at (573) 751-8793 or by e-mail at: delbertscott@senate.mo.gov.

Senator Delbert Scott represents the people of Barton, Benton, Cedar, Dallas, Henry, Hickory, Pettis, Polk and St. Clair counties in the Missouri Senate.

