

**Revised Uniform Anatomical Gift Act (UAGA) 2008
House Bill 1637 - Senate Bill 5657
Information Sheet**

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Each day, 18 people in the U.S. die waiting for a life-saving organ transplant.

Nearly 100,000 people are currently on the national organ transplant waiting list.

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Updating the laws that govern anatomical gifts is imperative in order to serve the **1,500+ patients currently waiting for an organ transplant in this state**. Last year, **about 100 of those people died** while waiting for a life-saving transplant that never came.

This act was written by the National Conference of Commissioners on Uniform State Laws (NCCUSL), which develops and drafts acts for State Legislatures to consider when nationwide consistency is desirable.

The intent of the 2008 revision is to update and modernize the UAGA in every state, and to ensure consistency in policy and practice across the nation. Uniformity is important because we must ensure people across the US receive the same high level of service, benefit from the same resources, and are protected by the same laws.

Washington's UAGA will be updated in a number of vital ways:

- It harmonizes Washington's UAGA with federal law, current technology and Advance Medical Directives.
- It clarifies the rules for donation decision-making when a registry record is not in place, further defining who can make or refuse a gift on the behalf of the potential donor.
- It strengthens an adult's right to refuse a gift if they so desire, as well as the right of a parent or guardian to refuse a gift on behalf of a minor.
- It clarifies the roles and responsibilities of donation agencies, indicating who is responsible for tracking and managing potential donors and who can receive and process an anatomical gift.
- It provides new guidelines for cooperation and coordination between organ donation agencies and medical examiners and coroners, particularly in cases where a potential donor's death circumstances placed them under the jurisdiction of the Medical Examiner or coroner.
- It more clearly prioritizes donation for transplantation over donation for research.
- This revision of the UAGA is strongly supported by local and national organ and tissue donation agencies and governing bodies as well as multiple medical associations, societies, and foundations.

Please support this important legislation...lives depend on it.



Donate Life Northwest

LifeCenter Northwest
Living Legacy Foundation
SightLife
Northwest Lions Foundation for Sight & Hearing
Northwest Tissue Center

ENDORSEMENTS

"I hope the UAGA will pass in Washington, giving all of us—donor families, waiting list candidates, recipients, and most of all, donors- assurance that our end of life decisions are honored." -- Elaine Morse, widow of donor, Bellevue, WA

National Medical and Health Care Organizations

American Academy of Ophthalmology
American Association of Tissue Banks
American Medical Association
American Society of Cataract & Refractive Surgery
Association of Organ Procurement Organizations
The Cornea Society
Eye Bank Association of America
National Kidney Foundation
United Network for Organ Sharing

Regional Medical and Health Care Organizations

Children's Hospital and Regional Medical Center
Community Tissue Services
LifeCenter Northwest
Living Legacy Foundation
Northwest Lions Foundation for Sight & Hearing
Northwest Tissue Center
Oregon Health & Science University
Pacific Northwest Transplant Bank
Providence Health and Services Washington Region
Sacred Heart Medical Center
SightLife
Swedish Medical Center
University of Washington Medical Center
Virginia Mason Medical Center

Organized Labor

International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers, District Lodge 751
Washington State Council of County and City Employees

Groups and Individuals

Korean Women's Association
Ron Chow, Governor's Commission on Asian Pacific American Affairs Commissioner

"When it comes to the UAGA, the goal is to follow the wishes of the patient in a timely and uniform manner. It does not hinder anyone's end of life decision - in fact, the aim is to ensure end of life decisions ARE honored by preventing family members from overriding a deceased person's wish to donate." -- Randy Small, heart transplant recipient, Bothell, WA