PEACE OF MIND REGISTRY: SENATE BILL 723

Gift of Life Michigan supports Senate Bill 723, sponsored by Senator Jim Marleau.

The Peace of Mind Registry will provide Michigan residents the opportunity to file their advance directive in a repository, which, when needed, can be accessed by a health care provider in order to see a person's express wishes regarding their end-of-life care.

Michigan law has various mechanisms by which residents can indicate end-of-life decisions – through the Durable Power of Attorney for Health Care, living wills, do-not-resuscitate declarations (DNR orders) and through the Michigan Organ Donor Registry. The Peace of Mind Registry would not only give residents a chance to store their advance directive for later use but also have the guarantee that a pre-registered hospital, hospice organization, nursing home, palliative care organization, and personal physician can access it at their convenience through a confidential website. There are ten other states with similar web-based advance directive repositories and we are ready to assist Michigan in combining the best practices from those registries to create the most efficient, effective and secure database for these important decision documents.

Gift of Life Michigan has maintained the Michigan Organ Donor Registry since 1994. We belong to a heavily regulated industry, and undergo numerous inspections by federal and state agencies (Centers for Medicare and Medicaid, Federal Drug Administration, Health Resources and Services Administration (Organ Procurement and Transplantation Network), American Society for Histocompatibility and Immunogenetics, Michigan Department of Community Health). Due to the nature of our work, we have a 24/7 call center and highly secured computer information systems, to ensure timely access balanced with patient confidentiality. Our organization has established agreements with all hospitals in the state, medical examiners and some hospice organizations. In addition, through the national network of organ procurement organizations, we have the ability to verify non-local inquiries from health care providers and assist residents who are travelling out-of-state.

It is too often that donation professionals, on site at hospitals, hear the family state that they wished they knew what their loved one wanted. The Peace of Mind Registry is aptly named, for it will give all of us, citizens and health care providers, the peace of mind to move forward with a person's expressed wish regarding end-of-life care. It is for this reason that we support Senator Marleau's bill, Senate Bill 723.

Questions: Please contact Amy Olszewski aolszewski@giftoflifemichigan.org 800.482.4881 x1014

Gift of Life Michigan is the state's federally designated organ and tissue recovery organization, which acts as intermediary between donors, their families and hospital staff. Gift of Life Michigan, in collaboration with the Michigan Eye-Bank, provides all services necessary for organ, tissue and eye donation. For more information, or to join the Donor Registry, visit www.giftoflifemichigan.org.

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