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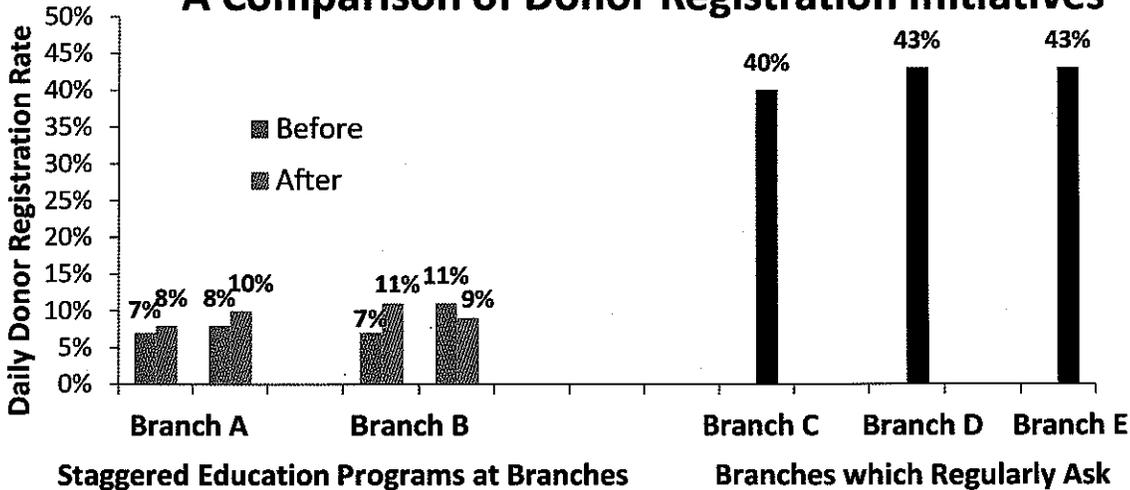
IN SUPPORT OF SENATE BILL 541

Gift of Life Michigan is writing in support of Senate Bill 541, requiring Secretary of State branch offices to specifically inquire about joining the Michigan Organ Donor Registry. About two-thirds of all states currently have this legislation. Michigan currently ranks 36th out of the 50 U.S. states and territories with respect to adults registered.

Secretary of State Ruth Johnson and her staff have been very supportive in the effort to raise awareness and participation in the donor registry. The current policy to ask citizens to join the registry, when time permits, has had some success with significant improvement in Michigan's ranking since 2011. Recently, donor registry growth has been limited primarily due to variation in application of this policy. Last year, out of 131 Michigan branch offices, 58 fell below the average registration rate. A third of these 58 branches were far below the average.

In order to better understand why the donation registration rate is lower than expected in some branch offices, Gift of Life Michigan undertook a focused study of two branches, providing increased clerk education and training. The results of this study are presented in the graph below, along with a comparison to the average registration rate in three offices which regularly ask customers about joining the donor registry. The study suggests that residents respond positively when prompted to document their decision to be an organ and tissue donor.

A Comparison of Donor Registration Initiatives



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 the intermediary between donors, their families and hospital staff. Gift of Life Michigan, in collaboration with Eversight Michigan, provides all services necessary for organ, tissue and eye donation. For more information, or to join the Donor Registry, visit www.giftoflifemichigan.org.

