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Frazier authors bill to help Donate Life California raise more revenue in quest to better serve those in need of life-saving tissue and organ donations

SACRAMENTO – Assemblymember Jim Frazier, D-Discovery Bay, has introduced a bill to help the nonprofit that administers California’s organ and tissue registry raise more funds to help it carry out its vital mission. AB 2096 would establish a voluntary contribution fund for Donate Life California, giving state tax filers the option to donate all or part of their tax refunds to DLC when they are filling out their tax forms.

“There are more than 22,000 Californians on the transplant waiting list,” Frazier said. “We must give Donate Life California the tools it needs to serve those whose lives depend on receiving the organ and tissue donations. I cannot think of a more worthy use of the funds when generous Californians are willing to donate out of their tax refunds.”

In 2004, Donate Life California became a state-authorized nonprofit to oversee the development of a statewide registry of organ, eye, and tissue donors. Donate Life California operates with the mission to save lives by creating opportunities for all Californians to sign up on the official registry.

Since 2006, Donate Life California has partnered with the DMV to help register Californians for the Organ and Tissue Donor Registry through the inclusion of a question on the original or renew driver's license or identification card application.

The primary source of Donate Life California's funding comes from a voluntary \$2 check off on the original or renewal driver's license or identification card application. Californians complete this form once every five years. This state-supported voluntary funding has allowed California to grow the largest registry in the country.

"While Californians have been very generous checking off the \$2 voluntary contribution when renewing their Driver Licenses, it only happens a few times a decade," Frazier said. "Donate Life California needs an additional source to raise funds. A voluntary contribution fund on state income tax forms is perfectly suited to provide this. Additional funding of Donate Life California will allow the organization to expand its educational and outreach opportunities and close the gap of those waiting for lifesaving organs and those who are able to receive them."

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Assemblymember Frazier represents the 11th Assembly District, which includes the communities of Antioch, Bethel Island, Birds Landing, Brentwood, Byron, Collinsville, Discovery Bay, Fairfield, Isleton, Knightsen, Locke, Oakley, Pittsburg (partial), Rio Vista, Suisun City, Travis AFB, Vacaville and Walnut Grove.

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