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Frazier bill to boost CA's organ donor registry passes first committee test

SACRAMENTO – The Assembly Revenue and Taxation Committee has approved a bill by Assemblymember Jim Frazier (D-Discovery Bay) to boost funding for Donate Life California, the nonprofit that administers California's organ and tissue donor registry. AB 2096 would add the Donate Life California Voluntary Tax Contribution Fund to California tax return forms, allowing taxpayers to donate all or a portion of their tax refunds to the fund.

"Donate Life California saves lives," Frazier said. "I first got involved with Donate Life when a young boy from my district named Matthew received a liver and a kidney transplant. Adding Donate Life California to the list of funds taxpayers can contribute to will greatly boost its outreach capabilities. I want to do what I can to help Donate Life California achieve its mission of persuading all Californians to sign up for the state's organ, eye and tissue donor registry and save lives."

"I want to thank Assemblymember Jim Frazier for authoring this bill and the members of the Revenue and Taxation Committee for recognizing the importance of providing our organization with an additional funding source," said Jim Martin, Chief Executive Officer of Donate Life California. "With a voluntary contribution fund helping to provide more revenue, Donate Life California can continue to expand its educational programs and awareness campaigns

throughout the state, and in turn, increase the number of registered organ and tissue donors in our registry. We look forward to working with the rest of the Legislature on passing this bill.”

“For over a decade, our incredible partnership with the DMV through registry sign ups and the \$2 voluntary donation has helped our organization register more than 14.5 million Californians as organ and tissue donors,” added Tom Mone, Board President of Donate Life California and Chief Executive Officer of OneLegacy. "Providing Californians with an additional contribution opportunity through their tax refunds will help ensure Donate Life California can continue to grow the registry and help save the lives of those on the transplant waiting lists.”

Frazier is also a coauthor of Assembly Concurrent Resolution 203, which recognizes April as Donate Life California month.

AB 2096 is next slated to be heard by the Assembly Appropriations Committee.

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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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