
From: Alex Chisholm [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, April 8, 2019 6:34 PM
To: Office of the Legislative Counsel
Subject: Presumed consent for organ transplants

I am writing to express my support for legislation that will eventually allow for presumed consent for organs to be used for transplantation.

As a grateful recipient of a cadaver kidney, I have a bias in favour of the proposed legislation.

I am aware that the decision won't be based on emotion but rather on facts and the law, but will give you the story surrounding my situation. Thirteen years ago my kidneys were failing and I was placed on the transplant wait list. I was still working but very tired all the time. My nephrologist told me that, as I had a relatively rare blood type, my chances of receiving a kidney were not the best. He said that if I got one it would be like winning the lottery.

Two days before my appointment with a surgeon to arrange for dialysis, I received a call telling me that a donor kidney had become available. There were only two people on the wait list with the donor's blood type and I was one of them. Because of that gift, I have been able to lead a normal life and watch my sons grow up and graduate from university. I was very lucky to have avoided dialysis and can only imagine the desperation of those having to be basically tied to a machine and not knowing if they will ever get a life saving kidney.

From following various media sources, my understanding is that there will be many safeguards to make sure that anyone not wanting to be donate an organ will not be coerced into doing so - from opting out to doctors respecting family wishes if they don't want the organs donated.

I urge you to continue working toward the presumed consent model of organ donation. Thank you for taking the time to consider my opinion.

Sincerely,

Alex Chisholm

Sent from my iPhone