

**2003-04 SESSION
COMMITTEE HEARING
RECORDS**

Committee Name:

*Senate Committee on
Health, Children,
Families, Aging and
Long Term Care
(SC-HCFALTC)*

Sample:

Record of Comm. Proceedings ... RCP

- 03hrAC-EdR_RCP_pt01a
- 03hrAC-EdR_RCP_pt01b
- 03hrAC-EdR_RCP_pt02

➤ Appointments ... Appt

➤ **

➤ Clearinghouse Rules ... CRule

➤ **

➤ Committee Hearings ... CH

➤ **

➤ Committee Reports ... CR

➤ **

➤ Executive Sessions ... ES

➤ **

➤ Hearing Records ... HR

➤ 03hr_ab0477b_pt02

➤ Miscellaneous ... Misc

➤ **

➤ Record of Comm. Proceedings ... RCP

➤ **

RESOLUTION NO. 69- -2003-04

TO THE HONORABLE, THE OUTAGAMIE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:

MAJORITY

1 The University of Wisconsin Hospital and Clinics Transplant Program has performed 575
2 transplants in 2002, growing to be one of the largest and most active transplant centers in
3 the world. There is presently a bill, which creates relief for those individuals who incur
4 travel expenses, lodging and lost wages related to his or her human organ donation, to
5 encourage organ donation.
6

7 NOW THEREFORE, the undersigned members of the Legislative/Audit and Human Resources
8 Committee recommend adoption of the following resolution.

9 BE IT RESOLVED, that the Outagamie County Board of Supervisors does support legislation
10 which creates an individual income tax relief for certain individuals who while living, donate a human
11 organ to encourage human organ donation, and

12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Outagamie County Board of Supervisors does further
13 support that this income tax modification may be claimed only once and may not be claimed by a
14 nonresident or part-year resident of this state as enumerated in the 2003 Assembly Bill 477, and

15 BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the Outagamie County Clerk be directed to forward a copy
16 of this resolution to the Wisconsin Counties Association.

17 Dated this ____ day of September, 2003.

18 Respectfully Submitted,
19 LEGISLATIVE/AUDIT &
20 HUMAN RESOURCES COMMITTEE
21

22
23
24
25 _____
26 Robert Spahn

27 _____
28 Al Schmidt

29
30 _____
31 Peter Beckley

_____ Dianne Herner

OUTAGAMIE COUNTY VOTING RESULTS PRINTOUT

Resolution Number: 069-0

09/09/03

Resolution

Adopted

DESCRIPTION:

Res 69 - Spahn/Schmidt to adopt

In Attendance: 36 Aye: 32 Nay: 04 Abstain: 00

District	Seat	Aye	Nay	Abstain	Attend	Name
001	35	*			*	M Meyer
002	28	*			*	H Nagler
003	14		*		*	J Mahan
004	09	*			*	W Defferding
005	36	*			*	J Smits
006	08	*			*	D Kennedy
007	34	*			*	W Errington
008	01	*			*	P Beckley
009	04	*			*	R Klemp
010	02	*			*	R Hannemann
011	19	*			*	D Herner
012	16	*			*	M Thomas
013	30	*			*	L Cain
014	23	*			*	R Spahn
015	12		*		*	T Awofeso
016	13		*		*	P Stevens
017	03	*			*	J Duncan
018	20	*			*	B Peerenboom
019	31	*			*	K VanderHeuvel
020	39	*			*	C Sanderfoot
021	15	*			*	L Hammen
022	24	*			*	P Hirte
023	33	*			*	L Kloehn
024	17	*			*	J McDaniel
025	22	*			*	M McAndrews
026	32	*			*	M Fox
027	26		*		*	F Techlin JR
028	29	*			*	N Austin
029	25	*			*	J Schuette
030	11	*			*	L Brockman
031	37	*			*	N Hofacker
032	38	*			*	A Schmidt
033	07	*			*	D Culbertson
034	10	*			*	M Obry
035	27	*			*	A Krause
036	21	*			*	C Anthony
037	05					Not Used
038	06					Not Used
039	18					Not Used

Executive session on:

- AB-477. Individual income tax subtract modification for certain individuals who donate a human organ.
- AB-592. Supplemental Medical Assistance payments to county, city, town or village nursing homes.
- SB-170. Veterans Mortgage Loan Program; other changes affecting veterans programs and benefits.
- SB-249. Certified capital investment limits; qualified business requirements; income and franchise tax credit for insurers; other provisions.
- SB-250. Construction and operation of a Hmong cultural center; grants bonding authority.
- SB-261. Creates a qualified new business venture tax credit and a capital gains tax exemption regarding investments in certified venture capital funds and qualified new business ventures.

The committee MAY also take executive action on:

- AB-601. State contribution toward certain federally finance election administration costs.
- AB-531. Certified capital investment limits; qualified business requirements; income and franchise tax credit for insurers; other provisions.
- AB-539. Creates a qualified new business venture tax credit and a capital gains tax exemption regarding investments in certified venture capital funds and qualified new business ventures.
- LRB3399/4. WRS conversion credit.

JF Committee on tax exemptions
mtg - Nov. 4th

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Organ donor deduction bill advances

11:04 PM 10/28/03

Phil Brinkman State government reporter

In an effort to spur more organ donations by living donors, the Legislature's budget committee Tuesday endorsed a bill to let givers claim a state income tax deduction of up to \$10,000. <

The bill, which would amend state law banning the exchange of anything of value for human organs, is intended to remove one of the biggest deterrents to living donors contributing an organ such as a kidney or part of a lung: the cost. <

It would allow donors to deduct costs for travel expenses, lodging and lost wages associated with the operation from their taxable income. <

If adopted, the bill would be the first law of its kind in the country, said Joy Johnson Wilson, health policy director for the National Conference of State Legislatures. <

"A person who's noble enough and charitable enough to donate an organ shouldn't have to pay costs beyond that," said Rep. Steve Wieckert, R-Appleton, the chief sponsor of the bill in the Assembly. <

More organ donations come from living donors than from those who have died, Wieckert said. Statewide, more than 1,400 people are on waiting lists for donated organs, according to the Organ Procurement and Transplantation Network. More than 100 die in the state each year waiting for suitable organs. <

The bill (AB477) would allow deductions for people who donate a kidney, bone marrow, or part of a lung, pancreas, intestines or liver. <

Cindy Huber, CEO of the National Kidney Foundation of Wisconsin, said the bill raises awareness about live organ donation and shows potential donors a way to make it

possible. <

"Sometimes, people have to say no to a family member, coworker or colleague because they cannot afford the time off, travel, etc.," Huber said. <

"The reality is if we ever want to impact the number of folks waiting, living donation really is the way to do it." <

The nonpartisan Legislative Fiscal Bureau estimates about 213 donors a year might take advantage of the deduction. Based on an average leave from work of 34 days to donate a kidney and 37 days for a liver donation, the total cost to the state for the tax break could be about \$115,000 a year. <

State Sen. Russ Decker, D-Schofield, one of two members of the Legislature's Joint Finance Committee to vote against the bill, said he supported the concept but questioned the cost in light of projected state budget deficits. <

"We just keep digging ourselves in a deeper hole by doing these type of bills," Decker said. <

But supporters said the bill simply provides organ donors with a similar tax benefit to those who give to charity. <

"I don't think there's going to be any rush to donate organs as a result of the tax (deduction)," said Sen. Scott Fitzgerald, R-Juneau. <

The bill is scheduled to go before the Joint Survey Committee on Tax Exemptions next week, and must be approved by both houses and signed by Gov. Jim Doyle to become law.

[Return to story](#)

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STEVE WIECKERT

STATE REPRESENTATIVE



CHAIRMAN
ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE
ON GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS

From: State Representative Steve Wieckert
Phone: (608) 266-3070, (920) 731-3000
Date: Tuesday, October 28, 2003

For Immediate Release

Wieckert's Organ Donation Bill Advances Wieckert To Appear on WGN's "To Your Health" Hosted By Lyle Dean

Today, Tuesday October 28, the Joint Committee on Finance took executive action on Assembly Bill 477 by Rep. Steve Wieckert (R-Appleton) which supports organ donation.

The committee voted 12-2 to pass the bill. "This is a great day for 80,000 people who are on organ transplant lists. We are trying to increase the pool of available organs, which can help save peoples lives by eliminating the disincentives for organ donation," said Representative Wieckert.

Assembly Bill 477 is also scheduled for executive action before the Joint Survey Committee on Tax Exemptions on Tuesday, November 4, 2003 at 9:00 am in room 411 South of the State Capitol. "This bill still faces significant challenges to becoming law. However, I will persist until I am successful," said Representative Wieckert. This legislation would be the first of its kind in the nation to help compensate living donors for out-of-pocket expenses.

Representative Wieckert will also appear on "To Your Health" on WGN Radio, hosted by Lyle Dean, scheduled to air on WGN radio on Sunday, November 2, 2003 at 11:00 pm.

More organ donations come from living donors than from those who have passed away. 5,000 people die each year on waiting lists because needed organs are not available.

###

IDEALS, PRINCIPLES, PATRIOTISM

STATE CAPITOL OFFICE: ROOM 16 WEST • P.O. BOX 8953 • MADISON, WI 53708-8953 • (608) 266-3070 • (608) 282-3657 FAX • Rep.Wieckert@legis.state.wi.us
DISTRICT 57 OFFICE: 3033 W. SPENCER STREET *APPLETON, WI 54914 • (920) 731-3000 • FAX: (920) 731-2999

COMMITTEES: ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT • GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS • HEALTH • HOUSING • INSURANCE



Legislative Fiscal Bureau

One East Main, Suite 301 • Madison, WI 53703 • (608) 266-3847 • Fax: (608) 267-6873

OCT 28 2003

October 28, 2003

TO: Members
Joint Committee on Finance

FROM: Bob Lang, Director

SUBJECT: **Assembly Bill 477**: Individual Income Tax Deduction for Organ Donors

Assembly Bill 477 would create an individual income tax deduction for expenses related to the donation of a human organ. The bill was introduced on August 22, 2003, and referred to the Assembly Committee on Public Health and to the Joint Survey Committee on Tax Exemptions. On September 25, 2003, the Committee on Public Health recommended the bill for passage by a vote of 8 to 0, and the bill was referred to the Joint Committee on Finance. To date, the Joint Survey Committee on Tax Exemptions has not acted on the bill.

CURRENT LAW

Under the current state individual income tax provisions, taxpayers subtract personal exemptions and the sliding scale standard deduction from Wisconsin adjusted gross income to determine taxable income. The amount of the standard deduction is phased out for higher income taxpayers.

In addition, if allowable itemized deductions exceed the sliding scale standard deduction, the excess amount is eligible for a tax credit of 5%. With certain exceptions, allowable expenses used in calculating the state credit generally conform to the expenses permitted as federal itemized deductions, including medical expenses exceeding 7.5% of federal adjusted gross income.

Under federal law, deductible medical expenses include out-of-pocket surgical, hospital, laboratory, transportation, and lodging expenses of organ donors or possible organ donors. When transportation costs are deducted, the cost of operating a car may be calculated at a standard rate of 12 cents per mile (plus parking fees and tolls) in lieu of actual expenses incurred. The lodging deduction is limited to amounts that are not lavish or extravagant and cannot exceed \$50 per night

for each individual. The deduction may be claimed for the individual seeking medical care and for a person who must accompany that individual. Meals are not deductible. Federal law and the state credit do not allow a deduction for lost wages incurred by organ donors.

SUMMARY OF BILL

The bill would create an individual income tax deduction for up to \$10,000 if a taxpayer, while living, donates one or more of his or her human organs to another human being for human organ transplantation. For purposes of the tax deduction, "human organ" would mean all or part of a liver, pancreas, kidney, intestine, lung, or bone marrow. The deduction could be claimed in the taxable year in which the transplant occurs.

The deduction could be claimed only once and only for unreimbursed travel and lodging expenses and lost wages that are incurred by the claimant and related to the claimant's organ donation. As drafted, it appears that the bill would allow the deduction for organs donated by the taxpayer or his or her spouse, but not for dependent children or dependent adults who do not file their own income tax returns.

The deduction could not be claimed by a part-year resident or nonresident of this state.

As under current law, taxpayers who claim the deduction would also be able to claim transportation and lodging expenses associated with the donation of an organ for purposes of the itemized deduction credit.

The deduction would first apply to taxable years beginning on January 1 of the year in which the bill takes effect (the day after publication), unless the bill takes effect after July 31. In that case, the deduction would first apply to taxable years beginning on January 1 of the following year.

FISCAL EFFECT

Assuming the new deduction would first apply to the 2004 tax year, the bill would reduce state income tax revenues by an estimated \$115,000 annually, beginning in 2004-05. This estimate is based on information from the United Network for Organ Sharing, Living Donors Online, and the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Prepared by: Rob Reinhardt

WISCONSIN: State is key to Bush, RNC chairman says/B3

LOCAL

Wisconsin State Journal

City Editor: Phil Glende, (608) 252-6117

B

Organ donor deduction advances

By Phil Brinkman
State government reporter

In an effort to spur more organ donations by living donors, the Legislature's budget committee Tuesday endorsed a bill to let givers claim a state income tax deduction of up to \$10,000.

The bill, which would amend state law banning the exchange of anything of value for human organs, is intended to remove one of the biggest deterrents to living donors contributing an organ such as a kidney or part of a lung: the cost.

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Budget committee backs effort to spur donations by living donors

duct costs for travel expenses, lodging and lost wages associated with the operation from their taxable income.

If adopted, the bill would be the first law of its kind in the country, said Joy Johnson, Wisconsin, health policy director for the National Conference of State Legislatures.

"A person who's noble enough and charitable enough to donate an organ shouldn't have to pay costs beyond that," said Rep. Steve Wiecek, R-Appleton, the chief sponsor of the bill in the Assembly.

More organ donations come from living donors than from those who have died, Wiecek said. Statewide, more than 1,400 people are on waiting lists for donated organs, according to the Organ Procurement and Transplantation Network. More than 100 die in the state each year waiting for suitable organs.

The bill (AB477) would allow deductions for people who donate a kidney, bone marrow, or part of a lung, pancreas, intestines or liver.

Cindy Huber, CEO of the National Kidney Foundation of Wisconsin, said the bill raises awareness about live organ donation and shows potential donors a way to make it possible.

"Sometimes, people have to say no to a family member, coworker or colleague because they cannot afford the time off, travel, etc.," Huber said.

"The reality is if we ever want to impact the number of folks waiting, living donation really is the way to do it," the nonpartisan Legislative

Fiscal Bureau estimates about 213 donors a year might take advantage of the deduction. Based on an average leave from work of 34 days to donate a kidney and 37 days for a liver donation, the total cost to the state for the tax break could be about \$115,000 a year.

State Sen. Russ Decker, D-Schofield, one of two members of the Legislature's Joint Finance Committee to vote against the bill, said he supported the concept but questioned the cost in light of projected state budget deficits. "We just keep digging our-

selves in a deeper hole by doing these type of bills," Decker said.

But supporters said the bill simply provides organ donors with a similar tax benefit to those who give to charity.

"I don't think there's going to be any rush to donate organs as a result of the tax (deduction)," said Sen. Scott Fitzgerald, R-Juneau.

The bill is scheduled to go before the Joint Survey Committee on Tax Exemptions next week, and must be approved by both houses and signed by Gov. Jim Doyle to become law.

Halbur, Jennifer

From: Coakley, Allison
Sent: Wednesday, October 29, 2003 1:32 PM
To: Halbur, Jennifer
Subject: RE: AB 477

Jennifer:

Looks good to me.

Allison

-----Original Message-----

From: Halbur, Jennifer
Sent: Wednesday, October 29, 2003 1:21 PM
To: Coakley, Allison
Subject: AB 477

Hey Allison,

AB 477, relating to creating an individual income tax subtract modification for certain individuals who donate a human organ, will likely pass the Assembly this month (according to Rep. Wiekert's office). If not, then it will be taken up in Jan. Either way, Carol would like this bill to be referred to the Senate Health Committee.

Thanks!
Jennifer

Capitol Hear

Wisconsin State Journal October 29, 2003

AB 477

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Budget committee backs effort to spur donations by living donors

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October 30, 2003

Senator Carol Roessler
State Capitol Building
P. O. Box 7882
Madison, WI 53707

Dear Senator Roessler:

On behalf of the members of the Waukesha County Medical Society, I want to take a moment to thank you for your support of **AB 487, the Patients Compensation Fund Protection Bill.**

This represents another significant accomplishment for Wisconsin patients and for protecting Wisconsin as one of the few states not facing a medical malpractice crisis.

We, as physicians, are pleased to see that the legislators in the state of Wisconsin are knowledgeable about these issues and we hope you will continue to listen to the Wisconsin Medical Society as they try to keep you informed on all important issues affecting the medical climate in this state. It is important for all citizens, including you and me, who will at one time be a "patient" in the medical system.

If there is anything we can do for you, please let me know.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Tom Luetzow'.
Thomas J. Luetzow, M.D.
President

COAST TO COAST

A national briefing of people, issues and events around the country

THE NORTHEAST

Lead Poisoning, Via Deodorant?

New York has discovered a new foe in the fight against lead poisoning—and it's a deodorant.

Not just any underarm spray, it is a yellow or peach-colored powder called litargirio, which is used as a deodorant in the Dominican Republic and consists of 80 percent lead. It has been turning up in some of the city's botanicas—specialty shops that cater to Latinos.

Moises Perez, executive director of Alianza Dominicana, a Dominican advocacy group, told Newsday that the product has long been used on the island and in the United States. "Some people use it for their feet; other people used it for open wounds. But none of us knew it was dangerous," he said.

This summer, Rhode Island health officials noticed that elevated levels of lead persisted in the blood of several children, even after lead abatement. Their investigation led them to the toxic deodorant.

New York health officials could not say how many, if any, of the city's 5,000 cases of elevated lead levels in children are linked to litargirio.

— Michelle Garcia

THE SOUTHWEST

A Frankster's Chili Reception

Chili chefs everywhere are reeling at the news—who could have imagined a chili cook among chili cooks?

It started as a prank, said Don Eastep, an Illinois retiree. When his brother Larry couldn't make the International Frank X. Tolbert-Wick Fowler Memorial Championship Chili Cook-Off in Terlingua, Tex., Eastep, 64, went under his brother's name. But he had no chili. So on cook-off day, he scooped up spoonfuls of chili from some of the 80 or so contestants' pots and entered the mishmash in his brother's cup.

He figured he had no chance, but the judges loved it. And when he was declared the winner, Eastep was rendered speechless. "Maybe I was afraid if I would have said something at the time, a Texas lynch mob would have come after me," he said. Suspicious contestants told the judges



BY MICHELE LEE/ASSOCIATED PRESS

After the Wildfires in California, Snow

THE WEST

Snow covers trees burned by a fire near Lake Arrowhead. The blaze was one of about a dozen California wildfires that killed 20 people, destroyed about 3,500 homes and scorched about 750,000 acres in the past three weeks.

When confronted, Eastep fessed up and turned over his winnings—trophy, engraved necklace and hand-painted stove—to the runner-up, a Dallas dentist.

In the future, said judge Tom Nall, cook-off participants will be required to show photo identification. And Eastep will be banned from the competition.

"That rotten, no-good scoundrel," Nall said. "We've posted guards around the Texas border to keep him out."

— Karin Brulliard

THE WEST

California to Become No. 1 for Cheese

Move over, Wisconsin cheeseheads, the cows of California are taking over.

The Golden State is about to assume the nation's top spot in cheese production, making it the king of everything from cheddar to Monterey Jack.

Already the largest milk producer in the United States, the state will see the opening of several new cheese plants push its

cheese production past current leader Wisconsin by 2005, the California Milk Advisory Board said last week.

That's good news for California's economy. Americans are eating more cheese than ever, wolfing down more than 30 pounds each last year, compared with the 11 pounds they nibbled on in 1970. And more than 40 percent of the state's dairy production is sold outside California, pumping billions of dollars into the state's economy.

— Kimberly Edds

THE MIDWEST

Tax Break Proposed For Organ Donation

Wisconsin lawmakers want to give state residents who donate an organ a tax break to offset the costs of travel, lodging and lost wages.

Under the measure, which officials say conforms with federal guidelines, donors could knock off up to \$10,000 from wages subject to state taxes. Even though the state is strapped for cash, proponents say

that the projected annual \$115,000 in lost revenue is well worth it. Actor Larry Hagman, who starred in the 1980s soap opera "Dallas" and is a liver transplant recipient, has visited the state stumping for the measure.

The savings offered by the bill are not large—likely \$100 or so per person—but state Rep. Steve Wickert (R) said in a statement that the measure would "increase the pool of available organs, which can help save people's lives by eliminating disincentives for organ donations."

— Robert E. Pierre

THE SOUTH

Atlanta Named Tops for Baldness

Forget about Capital of the New South. Atlanta has a new distinction: Baldest City in America.

At least, that's what the people at Men's Health have concluded. The magazine recently crowned Atlanta as the white-hot center of receding hairlines after discovering that it leads the nation in doctor visits for the anti-baldness drug Propecia. The study's methodology has made some wonder whether Atlanta might merely be the city most obsessed with preventing baldness.

Whatever the case, honoring Atlanta as the baldest of the bald is hardly a surprise to John Capps III of the Bald-Headed Men of America organization. (Really, we're not making this up; the group does exist.)

Capps, who lives in Morehead City, N.C. ("More head, less hair," he notes), says that his group has lots of members from Atlanta.

"And they are proud," Capps said, "every hair they don't have."

— Manuel Roig-Franzia

CORRECTION

In some editions of the Nov. 9 Sunday Source, the article "How to Treat Chapped Lips" incorrectly identified one of the ingredients in Burt's Bees Lifeguard's Choice Lip Balm; the balm contains titanium dioxide, not titanium oxide. The error was caught in some editions and not others because the section is printed in advance.

washingtonpost.com

COAST TO COAST

A national briefing of people, issues and events around the country

Sunday, November 9, 2003; Page A02

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-- Michelle García

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Suspicious contestants told the judges that no one had seen Eastep cooking chili. When confronted,

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Under the measure, which officials say conforms with federal guidelines, donors could knock off up to \$10,000 from wages subject to state taxes. Even though the state is strapped for cash, proponents say that the projected annual \$115,000 in lost revenue is well worth it. Actor Larry Hagman, who starred in the 1980s soap opera "Dallas" and is a liver transplant recipient, has visited the state stumping for the measure.

The savings offered by the bill are not large -- likely \$100 or so per person -- but state Rep. Steve Wiekert (R) said in a statement that the measure would "increase the pool of available organs, which can help save people's lives by eliminating disincentives for organ donations."

-- **Robert E. Pierre**

Atlanta Named Tops for Baldness

Forget about Capital of the New South. Atlanta has a new distinction: Baldest City in America.

At least, that's what the people at Men's Health have concluded. The magazine recently crowned Atlanta as the white-hot center of receding hairlines after discovering that it leads the nation in doctor visits for the anti-baldness drug Propecia. The study's methodology has made some wonder whether Atlanta might merely be the city most obsessed with preventing baldness.

Whatever the case, honoring Atlanta as the baldest of the bald is hardly a surprise to John Capps III of the Bald-Headed Men of America organization. (Really, we're not making this up; the group does exist.)

Capps, who lives in Morehead City, N.C. ("More head, less hair," he notes), says that his group has lots of members from Atlanta.

"And they are proud," Capps said, "of every hair they don't have."

-- **Manuel Roig-Franzia**

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Wisconsin Medical Society

Your Doctor. Your Health.

TO: Members of the State Assembly
FROM: Alice O'Connor and Mark Grapentine
DATE: November 10, 2003
RE: Support AB 477

On behalf of the Wisconsin Medical Society, which represents 10,000 physicians across Wisconsin committed to improving health of Wisconsin citizens, we want to express our support for Assembly Bill 477.

AB 477 creates a state income tax deduction of up to \$10,000 for living donors. This deduction can help defray some of the costs associated with being noble enough to donate an organ. Such costs would include lost time from work, lodging, and other travel expenses. Individuals who choose to donate a kidney, bone marrow, part of a lung, pancreas, intestines, or liver will also help raise awareness about the possibility of being a living donor to help another human being.

Because the bill does not provide a direct financial incentive for people to harvest their own organs, this bill should be supported as a means of helping reduce the current waiting list for people seeking living donors.

According to the latest numbers available from the United Network of Organ Sharing (UNOS), there are over 1,500 Wisconsin people currently on waiting lists for different organs. Some individuals have been waiting for more than five years. The Fiscal Bureau estimates that approximately 213 donors would possibly take advantage of the tax deduction for a state fiscal impact of approximately \$115,000. We believe this bill will help increase awareness about opportunities to become living donors.

The Wisconsin Medical Society believes that receiving a small tax benefit for reimbursement of expenses related to organ donation is a small benefit for organ donors who assume the risks, costs, and other burdens related to performing this lifesaving and altruistic act. And of course, the benefit to the recipient is immeasurable.

Thanks you for your consideration. If you have any questions please feel free to contact either one of us.

Halbur, Jennifer

From: Becher, Scott
Sent: Monday, November 10, 2003 9:06 AM
To: Halbur, Jennifer
Subject: FW: Wieckert makes Sunday Post

-----Original Message-----

From: Katie Harbath - Communications [mailto:KHarbath@rnchq.org]
Sent: Sunday, November 09, 2003 8:54 PM
To: Scott.Becher@legis.state.wi.us
Subject: Wieckert makes Sunday Post

Congrats. Rep. Wieckert's organ donation legislation made it to A2 of the Sunday Post.
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A17278-2003Nov8_2.html

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Office of the President

TO: Honorable Members of the Wisconsin State Assembly

FROM: T. Michael Bolger, J.D.
President & CEO 

DATE: November 11, 2003

RE: Support for Assembly Bill 477 – relating to an individual income tax subtract modification for certain individuals who donate a human organ.

On behalf of the Medical College of Wisconsin (MCW), I want to urge the members of the Wisconsin State Assembly to adopt Assembly Bill 477, as amended. The bill creates an income tax deduction (subtract modification) of up to \$10,000 from federal adjusted gross income for a person who, while living, donates one or more of his or her organs to another human being for human organ transplantation. The deduction is for unreimbursed expenses such as travel and lodging expenses, and loss of wages. Assembly Amendment 1 extends the deduction to an individual if a person who is claimed as his or her dependent for federal income tax purposes, makes such an organ donation.

There are over 80,000 patients currently waiting for an organ transplant. Nearly 3,000 new patients are added to the list each month. Sadly, every day 16 to 17 people die while waiting for a transplant of a vital organ, such as a kidney, liver, heart, lung, pancreas, or bone marrow.

There are two types of organ donors, individuals who are “brain dead” (whose brain function has ceased permanently) but whose heart and lungs continue to function with the use of ventilators, and a donor that is a living person who donates an organ or part of an organ to be transplanted into a person in need, however, Assembly Bill 477 only relates to the later. While a living donation is often a very positive experience for the donor, in that the donor has the knowledge that they were able to save a life, it can be financially costly in lost income, travel and lodging.

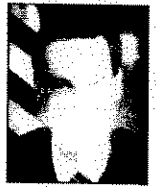
Increasing the number of persons willing to donate an organ will reduce the number of deaths of those individuals awaiting a transplant. Reducing the financial burden placed on organ donors and their families will help to increase organ donations, which are critical to reducing the wait lists and saving lives.

Thank you for consideration of this very important issue. Every day lives are saved by an organ transplant but unfortunately, every day lives are lost waiting for the “gift of life.”



STEVE WIECKERT

STATE REPRESENTATIVE



CHAIRMAN
ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE
ON GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS

Contact: Steve Wieckert
(608) 266-3070

Wednesday, November 12, 2003

For Immediate Release:

Wisconsin Assembly To Act On Landmark Organ Donation Bill *First of its Kind Legislation in the Nation according to NCSL*

Madison- On Thursday, the Wisconsin State Assembly will become the first legislative body in the nation to vote to create a \$10,000 organ donation deduction for live donors to cover lost wages, travel and lodging expenses. The bill, Assembly Bill 477, authored by State Representative Steve Wieckert (R-Appleton) has received national attention, for its unique design that complies completely to federal law regarding valuable consideration. On November 9, The Washington Post highlighted the Wieckert organ donation legislation in its Coast-to-Coast page and on November 2, WGN Radio featured the story of it "To Your Health" program. "Increasing the number of organ donations has always been important to me, dating back to my time working with the Red Cross as a young adult," Rep. Wieckert said. Wieckert has played active role health care issues in Wisconsin; this bill follows on the leadership success of helping establish last year's senior citizen prescription drug benefit program- Senior Care.

Currently, over 8,000 people are on a waiting list for organ donations with 5,840 people tragically dying each year according to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

"This legislation is an very important first step to increase organ donation awareness and help live donors who have made a huge and noble decision to give an organ," stated Rep. Wieckert. The cost for giving an organ by a live donor is very costly. According to the Wisconsin Department of Revenue, in the fiscal estimate prepared for this bill - a kidney donor loses an average of \$4,124 in lost wages, while a liver donors loses even more-an average \$4,246 in lost wages.

Assembly Bill 477 has been endorsed by the National Kidney Foundation, the University of Wisconsin-Madison Hospital and its head of transplantation-Dr. Hans Sollinger, the Medical College of Wisconsin, the Wisconsin Medical Society, Miss Wisconsin-Tina Sauerhammer and organ recipient actor Larry Hagman.

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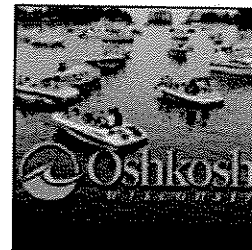
IDEALS, PRINCIPLES, PATRIOTISM

STATE CAPITOL OFFICE: ROOM 16 WEST • P.O. BOX 8953 • MADISON, WI 53708-8953 • (608) 266-3070 • (608) 282-3657 FAX • Rep.Wieckert@legis.state.wi.us
DISTRICT 57 OFFICE: 3033 W. SPENCER STREET • APPLETON, WI 54914 • (920) 731-3000 • FAX: (920) 731-2999

COMMITTEES: ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT • GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS • HEALTH • HOUSING • INSURANCE

Editorial: Bill to compensate organ donors is sound policy

A new bill in the state Assembly can remove the cost for a living person to donate an organ. It should become law, because the burden of costs connected with going to the place to give the organ can be huge.



State Rep. Steve Wieckert, R-Appleton, wrote Assembly Bill 477 that creates a tax deduction of up to \$10,000 for living people who donate an organ, such as a kidney. The bill passed the Assembly on a 95-1 vote Thursday.

Donors typically can lose significant wages, travel and hotel costs when they travel to donate an organ. This is innovative thinking that puts Wisconsin on the forefront of organ donation programs nationwide. No other state does this. We should be first.

As for those who may complain that a tax credit adds to the debt burden of the state, they have a point. However, this state spends millions on projects that aren't priorities or aren't worth buying at all. We as a state can afford to spend some bucks for one of the ultimate acts a human can make for another — the potential to improve or even save a life.

**Ba
to
To**

Gift of a LIFETIME

Living organ donors face financial, emotional issues

By Shawn Rhea
Post-Crescent staff writer

When Marty and Debbie Monroe were told by doctors three years ago that their then 5-year-old son, Cody, was in need of a kidney transplant, both were prepared to give up one of their own kidneys.

Born with a serious bladder defect that damaged both his kidneys, Cody had already undergone 10 surgeries before his 5th birthday, so the Menasha couple was prepared for the transplant recommendation they received from their doctors.

"We knew we'd (one day) have to have the transplant," said Debbie. As a result, the couple had long carried the expense of two family health insurance policies so that most of Cody's medical needs would be covered. They also carried a disability policy through Marty's job in the event that he might need to take time off to become Cody's donor.

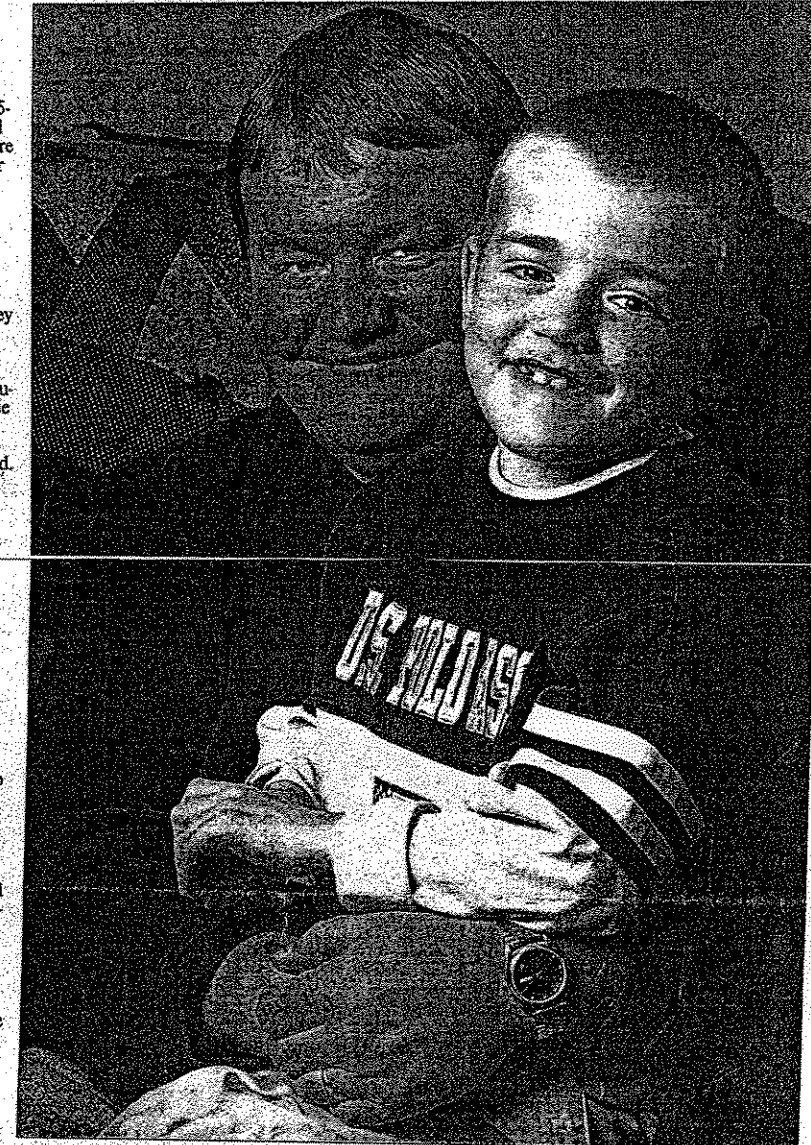
Despite their best planning, Marty and Debbie, who have two other sons, were slammed with substantial financial challenges as a result of Marty becoming a living organ donor. Due to his size, Marty was unable to undergo kidney laparoscopy, the least invasive form of organ removal. Instead, surgeons had to take out a rib to remove the organ. The surgery prevented Marty from returning to his job as a truck driver for N&M Transfer Co. in Neenah for 12 weeks. Despite the generosity of coworkers, friends and their church, the couple faced financial hardship. Marty's disability payments took 30 days to kick in, and they were just half his normal take-home salary. To add to the family's financial burden, Debbie lost wages when she had to take time off from her nursing job to care for Cody and Marty following surgery.

"We fell behind on our house payments, we fell behind on some of our credit card bills, (and) I also think my auto insurance," Debbie said. She estimates they forfeited \$3,600 alone in Marty's lost wages. Add Debbie's lost income and the cost of the family's multiple drives to and from Madison for pre-operative testing and surgery and the expenses quickly added up.

"There was lots of stress," Marty admitted.

Relief in sight

In August a bill began working its way through the Wisconsin Legislature that could provide financial relief to living organ donors who encounter the type of challenges experienced by the Monroes. Introduced by Rep. Steve Wieckert (R-Amnieton), the proposed legislation would allow living donors to claim a one-time state income tax deduction in order to recover all or a portion of their travel ex-



MARTY MONROE of Menasha donated one of his kidneys last year to his son, Cody, 7. This past week the Monroe family traveled to Madison to watch debate in the Assembly over a bill that would give tax refunds to living organ donors. The Monroes faced financial hardships because of time off work.

penses, lodging and lost wages. The tax break would come in the form of a \$10,000 reduction in federal adjusted gross income, and would provide just about \$550 in actual relief.

A survey conducted by the University of Wisconsin Organ Procurement Center in Madison found that 90 percent of their donors had out-of-pocket expenses and 40 percent experienced lost wages. The average cost to donors was \$1,454. While the state bill would fall short of providing a dollar-for-dollar tax credit, many believe it's an important step toward re-

ducing the burden of organ donation and providing life-giving organs to some of the 83,265 people currently on the national

"There was lots of stress."

MARTY MONROE on the family's financial hardships in the wake of his kidney donation

waiting list for organs. Wisconsinites account for 1,500 of those waiting. Living donors can give one of their kidneys, as well as segments from their lungs, livers, intestines and (although controversial) pancreases for transplants.

"The idea is if a person wants to donate an organ they should be able to without loss of income or cost," Wieckert said.

On Thursday, the Monroes, who drove to Madison to show support for the proposed legisla-

tion, looked on from the gallery as the Assembly passed the bill on a 95-1 vote. The Senate hasn't set a date for taking up the measure, but if it makes its way through and is signed by Gov. Jim Doyle, Wisconsin would become the first state to give a tax break to living donors, a step that many organ donation advocates say is long overdue. In March, a federal bill was introduced that would provide national reimbursement to living donors who incur travel and subsistence expenses, but that bill has not yet made its way through committee, and federal legislators aren't sure it will make much headway before year's end.

See DONORS, E-3

The Post-Crescent, Saturday, November 15, 2003, E-1

DONORS: Financial, ethical issues involved in living organ debate

From E-1

Evolving Ethics

Supporters of the Wisconsin bill believe that a state law could provide a national model for removing at least one of the barriers to living donations and promote the procedures as life-saving options. Until recently, though, many in the medical world have been hesitant to publicly promote the idea of living organ donation for fear of stirring up a dense ethical stew. Included in that mix of issues are the beliefs by some that deceased donation should be a medical mandate instead of an option; the concern that tax compensation laws are the first step down a slippery slope to ward the outright purchasing of organs from living donors; and uncertainty about who's responsible for the long-term health care of donors who develop ongoing or latent problems in conjunction with their surgery. The growing number of names on the national transplant waiting list coupled with research that says that kidney recipients (the most common type of transplant) tend to live longer when they receive living donor organs are forcing medical professionals to take up these ethical issues and reconsider many of the old debates.

Among the advocates, some argue that the focus ought to remain on encouraging more people to donate their organs upon death. Currently, only 30 percent of Americans die having indicated they want to become donors by carrying organ donor cards or placing organ donor stickers on their licenses.

"Healthy people should not have to give up their organs when people are buried each day with perfectly good organs," insisted Dave Undis, executive director of LifeSharers. Members of LifeSharers agree to donate their organs when they die and direct that their donations first go to other LifeSharers should they be in need. While Undis believes that living donation is an invaluable option for some recipients, he argues that deceased donors are the most viable, immediate means for increasing the pool of available organs.

Some organ donation advocates say even if more people agree to become deceased donors it doesn't guarantee their organs can or will be harvested. "From dead donors, the organs have been traumatized, (and) they don't always have the quality organs," said Dr. Hans Solange, a world-renowned transplant surgeon and a professor of surgery and chair of the transplant unit at UW Hospital in Madison.

It's also not unusual for grieving family members to override a loved one's wishes and refuse to allow the organs to be harvested. "They have to come to terms with the fact that this person is dead, that they aren't coming back," said Tom Olsen, community development coordinator for the Wisconsin Donor Network, an organ procurement organization.

Wisconsin law only requires that hospitals have a signed driver's license indicating consent in

order to harvest the organs, but surgeons tend to honor a family's position on donation.

"I don't think there's been one case in Wisconsin where the doctors have actually removed organs from a patient against the family's will," said Medical College of Wisconsin Department of Surgery Chair and Transplant Program Director Dr. Mark Adams during a recent meeting on the Wisconsin bill.

Donor dilemmas

The effort to remove barriers for potential living organ donors is also unearthing questions regarding social and medical preparedness. In short, are donors prepared to deal with the unexpected emotions that can accompany organ donation, and are transplant centers and medical insurers prepared to handle the long-term care of donors who develop ongoing health problems as a result of surgery?

Carefully analyzing potential donors before they are accepted and helping them navigate a field of hidden emotional and physical landmines is a mandatory but time-consuming process. If advocates are successful in their efforts to increase living organ donations, transplant centers will be faced with the task of performing the same type of exhaustive physical and psychological tests on a greater number of donors. If trends are any indication, it may not be long before transplant centers are grappling with this problem. In 2001, the number of living kidney donors (6,528) exceeded the number of deceased kidney donors (6,081) for the first time.

Some medical industry professionals are equally concerned that the potential for long-term donor complications from surgery could increase as the number of living donors rises.

"No one really knows if you donate a kidney today whether you have an increased risk of diabetes or high blood pressure," said Tom Armata, director of the South-Eastern Organ Procurement Foundation. Armata's organization maintains the Living Organ Donor Network, a 3-year-old data base of demographics and medical characteristics of living kidney donors, and provides transplant centers

with disability and life insurance policies that cover living donors in cases of transplant-related complications.

Armata noted that though kidney transplants have been performed successfully since 1954, there have been no long-term studies of the health outcomes of donors. The United Network for Organ Sharing, which keeps the national database of potential organ recipients, didn't begin collecting follow-up information on living donors until 1999. The National Institutes of Health has launched a five-year longitudinal study of living kidney and liver donor outcomes, but the data won't be available until 2007.

As a result, Armata believes that the risks - particularly to donors who give organs other than kidneys - may go unrealized. And, he's not alone in his concern. Last year, an Albany, N.Y., man died following a segment liver transplant to his brother, prompting a state medical advisory committee to adopt more strenuous transplant regulations. A year after donating a kidney to his brother, a 45-year-old Myrtle Beach, S.C., man suffered two abdominal muscle ruptures and had followup surgeries stemming from his organ donation. Four years later, he said he's still in pain. In Dayton, Ohio, a 45-year-old nurse experienced severe, continuous abdominal pain and vomiting after giving a kidney to her nephew. UNOS has reported five donor deaths directly related to transplant surgery.

For UNOS Ethics Committee Chair Mark Fox, the risks beg the question, who's responsible for the long-term care of organ donors suffering with complications?

"(The recipient's insurer) clearly pays for the (donor's) workup and the immediate responsibility of care, but we don't know what the insurance company's responsibility is two or three years down the line," Fox said.

Thomas Doney, president of the benefits planning company Cypress Benefits Administration in Appleton, said that all depends on who the insurer is.

"We're seeing everything from not covering such services at all to covering it in a limited fashion," said Doney of long-

term donor care. The former approach can present serious problems for uninsured donors, or donors whose insurer refuses coverage on the grounds that the surgery was elected. Locally, both Network and Touchpoint health plans would cover long-term complications for living donors who are insured under their policies, but would not provide extended care for transplant-related problems in donors whose surgery and immediate post-operative care were only covered by the recipient's policy.

UW Transplant Center Coordinator Mike Armbrust said that not having a prescribed standard of long-term coverage for donor-related problems is an issue.

"There are transplant centers that will say, 'I'm sorry, you donated two years ago, we can't help you.' I think we try to take it case-by-case and see if it's related to the donation, obviously, if you've got a hernia at the incision site then it's related to the donation."

At least one state legislator is already planning to vote against the current living donors tax break bill. Supporters estimate that the legislation would cost the state no more than \$115,000 in annual tax revenue, but Sen. Russ Decker (D-Madison), argues that it's more than the state can afford in light of the current budget crisis.

"We have a \$941 million structure deficit, and we can't keep adding to that pain," he said.

Marty and Debbie Monroe hope that lawmakers will see past the temporary budget crisis and on toward the possible long-term effects of a living organ

donor tax deduction.

"I think it could potentially help a lot of people decide to donate," said Debbie.

Shown files can be reached at 920-993-1000, ext. 526, or by e-mail at arhea@postercrescent.com.

MILWAUKEE JOURNAL SENTINEL,
NOVEMBER 18, 2003, 15A

Opening our eyes to organ donation

I hate the idea of parting with things.

My house and office are cluttered with stuff I can't bear to give up: Trigger, my rocking horse from when I was 5; my Halloween flapper costume from when I was 8; the



MAUREEN DOWD

"Flashdance" LP I played to psych myself up before my job interview with Abe Rosenthal at The New York Times and every embarrassing Joan Collins power suit I wore in the '80s.

So you can imagine how hard it is for me to imagine parting with body parts.

When my niece Jennifer gave 60% of her liver to my brother Michael six months ago, I realized I was part of the apathetic majority: the blissfully ignorant Americans who never sign up as organ donors.

Michael contracted hepatitis C 30 years ago from a tainted blood transfusion, which led to cirrhosis. If Jennifer hadn't volunteered to risk her life in a rare live donor transplant—a 14-hour ordeal orchestrated by Lynt Johnson at Georgetown University Hospital—Michael could have become one of the 17 Americans who die every day because people like me are oblivious to the crisis.

"Jennifer would never have had to undergo surgery if enough people donated after death," says Elaine Berg, president of the New York Organ Donor Network. On Thursday night, the network marked its 25th anniversary with a dinner at the Waldorf, an evening by turns heart-wrenching and heartwarming.

At a pre-dinner news conference, a lovely, melancholy woman spoke. She was Amanda Henley, the aunt of Lyric Benson, the beautiful Yale graduate and aspiring actress who was shot in the lobby of her Chinatown apartment building in April by an ex-boyfriend who then killed himself. Her family saved five people by donating Lyric's kidneys, heart, lungs, liver, bone and skin. "We are comforted by the thought that other lives were saved, that other sons and other daughters will have a second chance," Henley said.

Lewis Teperman, the network's departing chairman and director of transplantation at NYU Medical Center, said that organ donations dipped after "Coma," the 1978 medical thriller about the black market for organs, and, oddly, after

9-11. Other than that, he says, "organ donations are flat, even though the need for transplantation has increased almost logarithmically."

He wants the myths about organ donation to be dispelled so that people in emergency rooms will no longer worry that doctors will cut them loose if they've signed donor cards. "Nothing could be further from the truth," he says.

More than 83,000 Americans are waiting for an organ, a number that is expected to hit 100,000 by 2010.

Advocates want to see the president and members of Congress sign their donor cards in a very public way; see the subject taught in school, from elementary to medical school; see doctors routinely remind patients of the value of donation; and see people make their wishes explicitly known to their families.

Anna Quindlen, the evening's guest speaker, said that when you lose those who are close, it may not be enough to know that "they live forever inside of us."

"What if they could live on in someone else as well?" she asked. "What if a devoted mother could help another woman care for her own children for another decade or two? What if the indefatigable sportsman could help another guy stand again on the banks of a stream and fly-cast? What if one beloved child could resurrect another? ... What if you had something that you didn't need and giving it to another person would save his or her life?"

Once you have witnessed a life saved by an organ donation, that question becomes a no-brainer.

When the organ shortage caused Jennifer to offer part of her liver to her uncle, it created much angst. Irish families are notoriously loath to reveal emotions, anyhow, and our emotions were raw and mostly unspoken. Her parents were frightened and sleepless, and even Michael was hesitant about letting a young, healthy woman take such a gamble.

But the fears dissolved at the hospital the minute Jennifer and Michael woke up. Within two months, they both had fully functioning livers. Michael and his wife and Jennifer's parents were at the dinner Thursday night. They beamed as Jennifer, wearing a black dress with a cut-out middle, proudly showed her Mercedes-logo-shaped scar to admiring transplant surgeons.

Maureen Dowd is a columnist for The New York Times.



WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
AMENDMENT MEMO

2003 Assembly Bill 477	Assembly Amendment 1
<i>Memo published:</i> November 18, 2003	<i>Contact:</i> Richard Sweet, Senior Staff Attorney (266-2982)

Assembly Bill 477 creates a Wisconsin income tax deduction (subtract modification) of up to \$10,000 from federal adjusted gross income for a person who, while living, donates one or more of his or her organs to another human being for human organ transplantation. The term "human organ" is defined as all or part of a liver, pancreas, kidney, intestine, lung, or bone marrow.

The bill provides that a person may claim the deduction only once, and that it may be claimed only for the following unreimbursed expenses that are incurred by the person and that are related to the person's organ donation: (1) travel expenses; (2) lodging expenses; and (3) lost wages. The deduction may not be claimed by a part-year resident or nonresident of Wisconsin.

Assembly Amendment 1 also allows a person to deduct up to \$10,000 from federal adjusted gross income for Wisconsin income tax purposes if a person who is claimed as his or her dependent for federal income tax purposes makes such an organ donation.

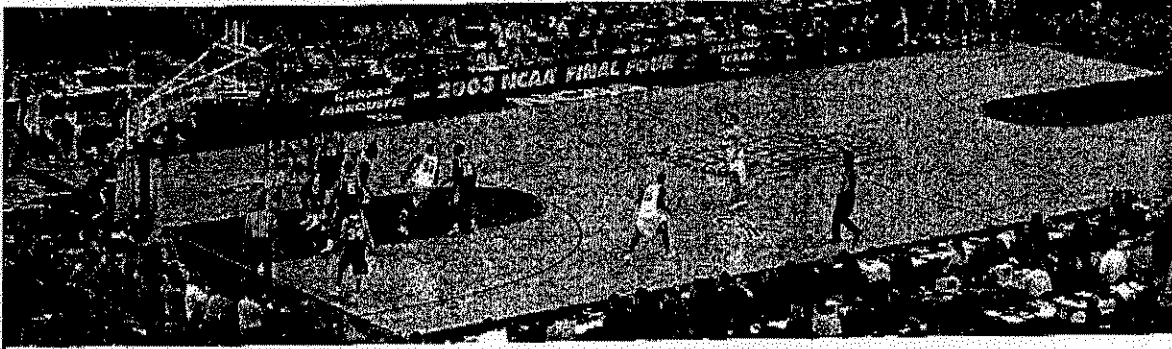
Legislative History

On September 10, 2003, the Assembly Committee on Public Health recommended passage of Assembly Bill 477 by a vote of Ayes, 8; Noes, 0.

Assembly Amendment 1 was introduced by the Joint Committee on Finance. On October 28, 2003, the Joint Committee on Finance recommended adoption of Assembly Amendment 1 by a vote of Ayes, 15; Noes, 0; and recommended passage of the bill as amended by a vote of Ayes, 13; Noes, 2.

On November 13, 2003, the Assembly adopted Assembly Amendment 1 by a voice vote and passed the bill as amended by a vote of Ayes, 95; Noes, 1.

RNS:tlu:wu;ksm



MARQUETTE
CONFERENCE
USA
CHAMPION
2003

TREY SCHWAB & JAYD GROSSMAN



TREY SCHWAB
SPECIAL ASSISTANT

In his third year with the Marquette basketball program as Special Assistant is Trey Schwab. Schwab's primary duties are the coordination of Marquette's video efforts, team travel and on-campus recruiting.

Since arriving at Marquette, Schwab has been recognized for his work in organ donor awareness throughout the country.

Diagnosed with idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis, an incurable lung disease, in the fall of 2001, his long-term survival depends on a lung transplant. He served as a national spokesman for National Donor Day this past April, and arranged for a Donor Awareness Night at the Bradley last December which led to many similar events throughout the nation. Finally, he was the co-recipient of the Dr. James S. Wolf Courage Award this past summer, presented annually to an individual outside the transplant/donation community who has played a significant role in public awareness of organ and tissue donation. Schwab, who hails from Nowata, Oklahoma, came to the Marquette program after spending six seasons working for the Minnesota Timberwolves of the National Basketball Association, his last five as an Advance and College Scout. His responsibilities with the Timberwolves included being in charge of all advance (NBA) scouting as well as all final scouting reports for every opponent.

Prior to his stint with Minnesota, Schwab served as the Director of Basketball Operations and Assistant Coach with the Sioux Falls Skyforce of the Continental Basketball Association from 1992 through 1995. During his time in the CBA, Schwab worked for two future NBA head coaches, Eric Musselman of the Golden State Warriors and Flip Saunders of the Minnesota Timberwolves.

Schwab also worked as an assistant coach at other CBA franchises including a pair of stints at Rapid City (SD) and with the LaCrosse Catbirds.

Schwab got his start in coaching as a student assistant coach at Tulsa where he served under J.D. Barnett from 1985-88. He earned his bachelor's degree in marketing from Tulsa in 1988.



JAYD GROSSMAN
HEAD ATHLETIC
TRAINER

In his first year as Head Athletic Trainer is Jayd Grossman.

Grossman oversees the efforts of the entire athletic training staff and care for Marquette student athletes while serving as the trainer for the men's basketball team.

Grossman came to Marquette after serving as the men's basketball trainer at Cincinnati from 1993-2003. In

addition to providing therapeutic medical care to the program, other responsibilities included: coordination of the team's preseason conditioning program; developing and implementing a basketball-specific diet and supplementation guidelines; serving as the program's travel coordinator as well as handling a variety of administrative duties.

In addition to his duties with the basketball program, Grossman participated in the health care of the university's 18 varsity athletic teams. He supervised the Graduate Athletic Trainer/Intern program, and also served as the Coordinator of the Disordered Eating Response Team that addressed disordered eating nutritional pathologies in the athletics program. He also served as an instructor in UC's College of Education.

Grossman was selected to work at the USA Basketball National Team Trials in 2000 and in 2001 served as athletic trainer for the team that claimed the 21-and-under World Championships in Saitama, Japan.

Prior to his post at Cincinnati, he served as a graduate assistant athletic trainer at the University of Virginia from August 1992 through June 1993.

He completed his B.S. in athletic training at Wisconsin-LaCrosse in 1992 and his master's in education at Virginia in 1993. His family includes his wife, Juli, and daughter, Mardi.

Jayd and Juli Grossman with daughter, Mardi



TREY SCHWAB & JAYD GROSSMAN



University of Wisconsin
Hospital and Clinics

Memorandum

DATE: November 21, 2003

TO: Members of the Senate Health, Children, Families, Aging and Long-Term Care
Committee

FROM: Hans W. Sollinger, M.D., Ph.D., Folkert O. Belzer Professor of Surgery,
Chair, Division of Transplantation

RE: Testimony in Support of Assembly Bill 477

Please accept this memo in support of Assembly Bill 477 that would permit a \$10,000 income tax deduction for living organ donors, to assist them with the expense related to their travel, lodging and lost wages during the organ donation process. As the second largest transplant center and the largest kidney transplant program in the country, Assembly Bill 477 is one that is extremely important to our transplant program and the patients and families we serve.

Today seventeen (17) people will die while waiting for an organ transplant due to the critical shortage of viable organs for transplants. The numbers tell a compelling story: more than 82,000 United States citizens await an organ transplant; of these more than 55,000 are waiting for a kidney transplant, and from May 2003 to January 2003 there were only 2,666 deceased organ donors and 2,724 living donors. Advances in medical technology have made transplantation from living donors an increasingly popular option for recipients, affording a better outcome at very minimal risk to the donor.

You might be interested to hear that, particularly in the Midwest, the number of live donors is one of the highest in the world. Americans in this area of the country are selfless and committed to helping their relatives and loved ones, even if it means undergoing a serious surgical procedure. Therefore, it might come as a surprise to you that these individuals are

asked not only to make a physical sacrifice, but very often a monetary sacrifice as well in conjunction with their organ donation. For example, a study conducted by the University of Wisconsin Hospital and Clinics Transplant Program revealed that more than 90% of living donors surveyed experienced some out-of-pocket expense related to travel, lodging and lost wages. Additionally, 48% of respondents to the survey reported lost wages during their recuperation from the surgery.

In more human terms, let us give you some examples. We recently became aware of the fact that one donor had great difficulty with the modest \$400 travel expense from Northern Wisconsin to Madison. A second donor was out of work longer than she expected and was forced to put all her expenses for a month on a credit card due to lost wages. And finally, one living liver donor was forced to go back to work two weeks after surgery, potentially jeopardizing her recovery. She is a hairdresser and could not afford to lose additional income.

This bill is a much-needed gesture by society to express its gratitude to these selfless individuals and to ensure that, in addition to the physical trauma to which they voluntarily expose themselves, no additional financial hardships are imposed. Additionally, given the shortage of organs for transplant, this bill begins to address alleviating some of the financial barriers to make living donation a greater possibility. Thank you for your consideration of this important bill and for your continued support for organ donation and transplantation.



STEVE WIECKERT

STATE REPRESENTATIVE

CHAIRMAN
ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE
ON GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS

Contact: Representative Steve Wieckert
(608) 266-3070, (920) 731-3000,
(920) 830-1811

Friday, November 21, 2003

For Immediate Release:

First-of-its-Kind Organ Donation Bill Scheduled for Public Hearing *Bill Will Appear Before Senate Committee on Health, Children, Families, Aging and Long Term Care*

Madison- On Monday, the Senate Committee on Health, Children, Families, Aging and Long Term Care will hold a public hearing on a piece of legislation that will offer an unprecedented incentive for organ donations. Assembly Bill 477, authored by State Representative Steve Wieckert (R-Appleton), creates a \$10,000 organ donation deduction for live donors to cover lost wages, travel and lodging expenses.

AB 477 recently passed the Assembly on Thursday, November 20, by a nearly unanimous vote of 95-1. "This bill offers a way to lend a helping hand to those supremely brave and generous people who choose to save a life by donating an organ," Rep. Wieckert said.

Nationwide, over 80,000 people are on the waiting list to receive an organ transplant. Unfortunately, over 5,000 people will pass away each year for want of an organ transplant. "This is a serious national problem that we need to find an answer to and help save lives," Wieckert said, "and that is the purpose of my bill."

Scheduled to appear at the hearing on behalf of this bill will include former Green Bay Packer and kidney recipient John Brockington, who will be testifying via telephone from San Diego, Marquette University Men's Basketball Assistant Coach Trey Schwab, who is on the waiting list to receive a lung transplant and Miss Wisconsin Tina Sauerhammer, whose father died waiting for a transplant.

The hearing will be held on Monday, November 24, at 10:00 am in room 411 South of the State Capitol.

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IDEALS, PRINCIPLES, PATRIOTISM


STATE CAPITOL OFFICE: ROOM 16 WEST • P.O. BOX 8953 • MADISON, WI 53708-8953 • (608) 266-3070 • (608) 282-3657 FAX • Rep.Wieckert@legis.state.wi.us
DISTRICT 57 OFFICE: 3033 W. SPENCER STREET • APPLETON, WI 54914 • (920) 731-3000 • FAX: (920) 731-2999

COMMITTEES: ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT • GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS • HEALTH • HOUSING • INSURANCE



Office of Planning and
Government Affairs

TO: Honorable Members of the Senate Health Committee

FROM: Kathryn A. Kuhn, Director 

DATE: November 24, 2003

RE: Support for Assembly Bill 477 – relating to an individual income tax subtract modification for certain individuals who donate a human organ.

The Medical College of Wisconsin (MCW) supports Assembly Bill 477 which creates an income tax deduction (subtract modification) of up to \$10,000 from federal adjusted gross income for a person who, while living, donates one or more of his or her organs to another human being for human organ transplantation. The deduction is for unreimbursed expenses such as travel and lodging expenses, and loss of wages. Assembly Amendment 1 extends the deduction to an individual if a person who is claimed as his or her dependent for federal income tax purposes makes such an organ donation.

There are over 80,000 patients currently waiting for an organ transplant. Nearly 3,000 new patients are added to the list each month. Sadly, every day 16 to 17 people die while waiting for a transplant of a vital organ, such as a kidney, liver, heart, lung, pancreas, or bone marrow.

There are two types of organ donors, individuals who are “brain dead” (whose brain function has ceased permanently) but whose heart and lungs continue to function with the use of ventilators, and a donor that is a living person who donates an organ or part of an organ to be transplanted into a person in need, however, Assembly Bill 477 only relates to the later. While a living donation is often a very positive experience for the donor, in that the donor has the knowledge that they were able to save a life, it can be financially costly in lost income, travel and lodging.

Increasing the number of persons willing to donate an organ will reduce the number of deaths of those individuals awaiting a transplant. Reducing the financial burden placed on organ donors and their families will help to increase organ donations, which are critical to reducing the wait lists and saving lives.

Thank you for consideration of this very important issue. Every day lives are saved by an organ transplant but unfortunately, every day lives are lost waiting for the “gift of life.”



Wisconsin Medical Society

Your Doctor. Your Health.

TO: Members, Senate Health Committee

FROM: Alice O'Connor & Mark Grapentine, JD
Wisconsin Medical Society

DATE: November 24, 2003

RE: Support Assembly Bill 477 – organ donations

On behalf of more than 10,000 members statewide, we would like to register the Wisconsin Medical Society's support for Assembly Bill 477.

Attached is a memo expressing our support for AB 477 that we presented to the entire Assembly two weeks ago. The bill received overwhelming support, passing that body on a 95-1 vote this November 13.

If you have any questions about this or any other bill, please feel free to contact Alice O'Connor at aliceo@wismed.org or Mark Grapentine at markg@wismed.org. Both can be reached at 608.442.3800.



University of Wisconsin
Hospital and Clinics

Memorandum

DATE: November 24, 2003

TO: Members of the Senate Health, Children, Families, Aging and Long-Term Care
Committee

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In more human terms, let us give you some examples. We recently became aware of the fact that one donor had great difficulty with the modest \$400 travel expense from Northern Wisconsin to Madison. A second donor was out of work longer than she expected and was forced to put all her expenses for a month on a credit card due to lost wages. And finally, one living liver donor was forced to go back to work two weeks after surgery, potentially jeopardizing her recovery. She is a hairdresser and could not afford to lose additional income.

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Organ Donation Testimony
Senate Committee on Health, Children, Families, Aging and Long Term
Care Hearing
411 South
Monday, November 24, 2003
AB 477
By
State Representative Steve Wieckert

Thank you Chairwoman Roessler and members of the committee for holding this public hearing today.

Thank you also to the many people who have given their time today to appear at this hearing on behalf of AB477. I would like to give special thanks to Trey Schwab, Marquette University Men's Basketball Assistant Coach, who is currently on the waiting list for a lung transplant. I would also like to extend my thanks to John Brockington, former Green Bay Packer and kidney recipient, who will join us via telephone from San Diego.

I recently had the privilege to meet a very brave family, the Monroe family of Menasha, WI. When their youngest son, Cody, became seriously ill, and needed a kidney transplant, he was fortunate enough that both his mother, Debbie, and his father, Marty, were matches. He received a kidney donated by his father and is now able to lead a wonderful, healthy life.

Wieckert
Packet

The need for organ donations is real

However, not everyone is lucky enough to be blessed with the necessary organ donation needed to save his or her life. Currently, there is a dire need for organ donations in our country. There are about 80,000 people in America on waiting lists to receive organ transplants. Nationwide, over 5,000 of these individuals will die each year because there is not available the organ they need, which could have saved their life. In Wisconsin alone, there are over 1,500 people on the waiting list for organ transplants.

This bill would help increase living organ donations

This bill, AB 477, is designed to help encourage the awareness and importance of organ donation through public hearings like this and also to offer assistance in encouraging organ donation. This legislation would create a \$10,000 state income tax deduction for living donors who incur expenses because of organ donation. The categories that would be allowable for expense deductions include travel and lodging expenses and lost wages. Last year, Wisconsin had 213 living donors. The vast majority donated kidneys. The types of organs this bill covers includes, kidney transplants, and partial liver, pancreas, lung, bone marrow and intestine.

The benefits of living organ donations

In the last several years, nationwide, the number of living organ donors has exceeded the donations received from deceased individuals. This trend is predicted to continue, making the need for this legislation providing for living organ donations more important than ever.

There is also additional value to be had from living donations. The quality of transplant is often better when the organ comes from a living donor. Many times there are fewer infections, less complications, longer working-life of the organ, and better outcomes in general.

This bill is the first of its kind in the nation

AB 477 is the first of its kind in the nation and could serve as model legislation for states around the country. Legislative searches through the help of NCSL have shown no other states have yet enacted similar legislation. My staff and I contacted a number of other elected officials in other states about this issue and discovered a widespread interest in this bill.

The need for more organ donations is real and many other states and the Federal Government are aware of this problem, and are attempting to find solutions. The United States Congress and Senate are currently considering

such types of legislation. Representative Bill Bilrakis (R-Florida) has introduced a bill, which would provide states money to help establish a registry and compensate donors for lost wages in certain cases. This bill has received wide support in Congress. Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist (R-Tennessee) has introduced legislation, which would create a national taskforce, provide for compensation for donors and create several pilot programs.

These bills are somewhat similar, and more expansive than the bill we are hearing today. The existence of federal legislation demonstrates that the increasing need for living organ donors affects not only the state of Wisconsin, but also the entire nation.

This bill rises above partisan politics

This bill rises above partisan politics. On November 13, 2003, this bill passed the Assembly by a nearly unanimous vote of 95-1. Governments are made to serve the people and that is what this legislation does in the purest sense. This bill is designed to help save lives. Thousands of lives can be saved each year through organ donation.

This bill has widespread support

This bill has the support of Dr. Hans Sollinger. Dr. Sollinger is an internationally renowned transplant surgeon located at the University of Wisconsin Medical School. The UW-Transplant Center has performed 345 kidney transplants last year alone. This ranks it as number one in the nation. This program has also led the country in quality outcomes of organ transplants for the last ten years. Dr. Sollinger is the past president of the American Society of Transplant Surgeons and serves on the editorial board of ten transplant journals. Through the University of Wisconsin transplant program, Dr. Sollinger pioneered new surgical techniques in pancreas transplantations. Surgeons nationwide now use these techniques.

Dr. Mark Adams, Chief Transplant Surgeon of the Medical College of Wisconsin also supports this legislation. Dr. Adams has received numerous recognitions and awards from the State Medical Society for his work in organ transplantation.

Mr. Larry Hagman for appearing for the first time at a State Public Hearing to testify on behalf of this bill. Mr. Hagman is the recipient of a liver transplant and is a board member of the national Advisory Committee on Organ Transplantation (ACOT). Mr. Hagman is also known by millions for his lead roles in the TV series "I Dream of Jeannie" and "Dallas."

Tina Sauerhammer, the current Miss Wisconsin, also supports this bill, and appeared at the Assembly on the day it was voted to give her support. Miss Sauerhammer's father died while waiting for a transplant.

This bill also has the support of the National Kidney Foundation.

I would also like to thank Cindy Huber from the National Kidney Foundation of Wisconsin for her very helpful support.

Wisconsin can lead the nation in this effort to encourage organ donation. This bill is relevant; there is a genuine and increasing need for living organ donations.

Most importantly, this legislation can save lives by lending a helping hand to those who selflessly choose to save the lives of others. Thank you for holding a public hearing on this bill today, and I would be happy to answer any questions at this time.

11-21-03

AB 477 Organ Donation

State tax deduction (fin press)

- widespread int. in other states
- Bill Velasco has intro. a bill to provide a registry + funding for living donors.
- Dr. Hans Sollinger supports this bill (he's a transplant Surgeon @ Univ. of Wisconsin)
- Larry Heyman testified in favor @ Assemb. hearings.
- LT Cool - have no one on waiting list.

Trey Schwab

- 60% of donors are living donors. 40% deceased.
- Lungs, kidney, liver: most wanted / can be given by living donor.
- liv. donors miss 5-6 weeks of work.

Mary Baliker

- UW Hosp. employee
- kidney disease since 9

CR: Work with HFS to make sure people aware that they can give organs + be paid

Karen Bredeson

- June '03 became organ donor to stranger.
- State employee + this was paid while donating organ.

Tina Sauerhammer Miss WI.

- Father fell n. worked @ paper mill in G.B.
- died waiting for kidney.
- 45th B-day this yr. he died.
- He went to payco + missed phone call for an organ.
- She wrote letter to father to give him life.

John Brockington

- G.B. Packers (former)
- received kidney - married donor.
- Good for state - get people well + working.
- Strongly supports bill. would love to see tax credits in the future.

Martha Melan - HFS Supports

- 1500 W.S. Res. on waiting list
- Over 1/2 have waited a yr. 2-3 yrs.
- More than 1/2 of W.S. donors are living.

(CR) on day this is
up in Senate -
CR wants to
know exactly how
many this
yr.

The San Diego Union-Tribune • Thursday, November 28, 2002

Diane Bell**A petite fan, a pro back and a life saved**

In the fall of 1971 as Green Bay played a Monday Night Football game against the Detroit Lions,

Packers running back John Brockington, 220 pounds and 6 feet 1, could not know that a petite, blond woman cheering in the stands would one day save his life.

Twenty years later, their paths crossed at a deli on India Street in San Diego, where they both had moved. Grabbing Brockington's arm, the deli's owner led him over to Diane Scott, saying, "You have to meet this lady. She's a big Green Bay fan, and you were her favorite player." Brockington was selling insurance; Scott was teaching school; and both were divorced with grown children. They struck up a friendship and started going to football games together.

Illness strikes

In June 2000, after weeks of illness, Brockington sought out a doctor and learned that his bladder was obstructed and inflamed, exerting pressure on his kidneys. The physician put him in the hospital immediately, saying he was amazed Brockington was even walking.

But pain was no stranger to the NFL 1971 Rookie of the Year and All-Pro running back — athletes learn to live with it. Brockington's prognosis was worse than he realized.

Dr. George Fadda, Brockington's nephrologist, remembers his first contact on the case. "When I got a call from John's primary physician, he told me the poison level in his patient's blood was 40 times normal. I said, 'This is impossible. It must be a lab error. Do the test again.'" Fadda himself later repeated the lab test, and it came back only slightly less than the initial reading of 40. "This was the highest creatinine (poison) level I have ever seen."

When a patient's toxicity level reaches 7 or 8, most go on dialysis, explains Fadda. But Brockington, who doesn't smoke or drink, was in such good condition that his body was able to tolerate the illness. His condition slowly improved, and three weeks after his admission to the hospital he was released with a strict diet, medication and the forecast that a kidney transplant was most likely in his future. The former football player had lost 53 pounds.

A relapse

The medication kept Brock-

ington going for more than a year. But in September 2001, he had a relapse and needed the aid of a dialysis machine three times a week from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Brockington, who had always been active, was miserable. He realized he needed a transplant. But finding a donor isn't easy. There currently is a four- to five-year wait if a suitable donor can't be found among a patient's family and friends.

When no one in Brockington's immediate family proved suitable, Diane Scott, 53, was right there with her hand up. Chances were slim that she would be a match. She is white. He is black. They weren't related. But testing proved predictions wrong. Not only did Scott match, but so did her 29-year-old daughters, Jessica and Justine, identical twins.

The doctor worried that Scott's kidney would be far too small for Brockington's body. But Scott, 5 feet 1 and 128 pounds, insisted on a sonogram anyway and learned from the surgeon that she possessed extra-large kidneys for a woman her size. It seemed she was destined to be the donor.

So, after less than three months on dialysis, Brockington had his transplant. The date was Nov. 28, 2001.

Brockington says he cherishes each day since his transplant as a special gift from God. "Little did I know 30 years ago," says Brockington, "that my life-line was sitting in the stands (hunched over in the rain under a torn trash bag) watching me play against Detroit."

Now he wants to give something to others. He formed the John Brockington Growing Boys to Men Foundation and yesterday delivered a Thanksgiving turkey, two hams and a \$100 grocery store certificate to a family caring for 10 foster boys — ages 7 to 14. On Dec. 10, he and former Packer teammate Willie Buchanon are hosting a Pro-Athletes for Life dinner at Roy's Restaurant to benefit the National Kidney Foundation of Southern California.

Today, Brockington plans to share Thanksgiving with Scott, her daughters and father, at her Mission Hills home. "It's a great cause for celebration," says Scott of the transplant's success. "We are very blessed."

Diane Bell's column appears Tuesdays, Thursdays, Saturdays. Fax items to (619) 293-2443; call (619) 293-1518, or e-mail to diane.bell@uniontrib.com.

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AB477

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Wisconsin eases financial burden on organ donors

*January 23, 2004***BY CHRIS FUSCO Staff Reporter**

Wisconsin lawmakers Thursday cracked open government's door on a once-taboo subject: dollars and organ donation.

Senators in Madison voted 28-2 to allow living organ donors to deduct up to \$10,000 in lost wages and donation-related travel and lodging expenses from state income taxes. The legislation, approved 95-1 in November by Wisconsin representatives, next will go to Gov. Jim Doyle, who is expected to sign it.

"It's a great thing. We are trying to reduce the disincentives for donating," said state Rep. Steve Wieckert (R-Appleton), the architect of the legislation. "If you donate an organ, that's noble enough. You shouldn't have to pay to be able to do it."

Not everybody sees the Wisconsin legislation -- the first of its kind in the country -- the same way.

"This totally scares me," said Dr. Lainie Friedman Ross, assistant director of the University of Chicago's MacLean Center for Clinical Medical Ethics. "By encouraging living donors, we're putting healthy people at risk. . . . The whole thing is just going in the wrong direction."

Organs used in transplants come from two main sources: living donors and people who become brain dead. In 2001, the number of living-donor transplants topped the number of transplants from deceased people for the first time.

The Wisconsin legislation affects living donors only. Typically, each donor's surgery and other medical costs are covered by the recipient's health insurance, but lost wages and other expenses don't get reimbursed.

Wieckert's organ bill is expected to decrease Wisconsin tax revenues by about \$115,000 annually, with each donor getting a \$550 tax break on average. Wieckert plans to shop the idea nationwide.

All this comes as physicians are looking for creative ways to persuade more people to donate organs, including financial incentives once considered a dark mark on the altruism associated with the act. On average, 17 people a day die awaiting potentially life-saving transplants.

Wieckert sees Wisconsin's legislation as a way to help people already committed to donating kidneys, livers or bone marrow. The Monroe family of Menasha, Wis., fits that profile. Because of a bladder defect that was misdiagnosed at birth, Cody Monroe, 8, underwent a kidney transplant three years ago. His father Marty, 36, was his donor.

Marty Monroe took nearly three months off his job as a truck driver. His wife estimates they lost \$6,000 in wages during that time.

"Some people willing to donate can't afford to be off work," said Debbie Monroe, adding the tax deduction

have made her family rich but would have helped during a difficult time.

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