

March 9, 2022

**TO:** House Judiciary Finance and Civil Law Committee, Minnesota House of Representatives

**From:** Susan Mau Larson, Chief Strategy Officer

**RE:** HF3972 (Richardson) Nondiscrimination and equity required in access to organ transplants, and penalties prescribed.

LifeSource stands in support of bill HF 3972, prohibiting discrimination on the basis of race or ethnicity in access to organ transplants.

Continuous improvements in equity, transparency and efficiency in the organ donation and transplantation process are central to LifeSource's mission to save as many lives as possible. Many of these advancements already are underway in our service area, and we are grateful for all efforts to increase donation, advance equity and enhance care for all patients.

LifeSource is the organ procurement organization serving Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota and portions of Western Wisconsin. We are proud that in 2020, we cared for 203 organ donors which represented a 10% increase from 2020. Continued systemwide collaboration will increase those numbers and result in more lives saved through transplantation.

LifeSource is committed to collaborating with our valued partners in the greater organ donation and transplantation ecosystem, including transplant centers, transplant surgeons, dialysis centers and more. We work with the families of donors in the midst of their grief to assess the potential gifts of their loved ones. We then collaborate with the hospital care team to make transplant centers aware of donated organs and tissue available and facilitate the donation process. We are always respectful of our transplant center partners, who are responsible for making the critical decision about whether the organs offered are suitable for their patients.

We are grateful for Representative Richardson's bill as we strive towards greater equity in healthcare. The LifeSource team will continuously evolve our approach to work to save more lives. Our mission will not be complete until every individual on the transplant waiting list receives their lifesaving organ.