

January 24, 2022

The Honorable Dean Burke, Chairman  
The Honorable Larry Walker III, Vice Chairman  
Members  
Senate Insurance and Labor Committee  
Georgia General Assembly

RE: Support SB 330

Dear Chairman Burke, Vice Chairman Walker and Members of the Committee:

My name is Tangela Robinson. I am a resident of Fairburn, a kidney transplant recipient and former dialysis patient, and volunteer as a Patient Ambassador for Dialysis Patient Citizens. I am writing today in support of SB 330 that provides support to living organ donors.

Dialysis Patient Citizens (DPC) is a national nonprofit patient advocacy organization working to improve the lives of dialysis patients through education and advocacy. We are a patient-led, non-profit organization with membership open only to dialysis and kidney disease patients and their family members. Our mission and policy positions are guided solely by our membership and Board of Directors, which is comprised entirely of End Stage Renal Disease (ESRD) patients like me.

Today I write on behalf of the more than 28,000<sup>i</sup> fellow Georgians with ESRD to ask for your support of SB 330. In order to expand the number of kidneys available for transplant, more people need to make the choice to become a living kidney donor. However, even when someone wants to donate a kidney they often face multiple financial barriers that keep them from going through with their lifesaving organ donation. This bill offers meaningful support to living organ donors by providing private employers with an incentive – a tax credit of \$300.00 per each day of paid donation leave given to an employee organ donor, or the actual amount paid to the employee donor, whichever is less. Employers can support their living organ donor employees up to a total of \$54,000 per taxable year – a fantastic incentive that should help increase the number of kidneys available for transplant.

Why is it important to reduce barriers to living organ donation? Living kidney donation is an important option for the thousands of Americans on the kidney transplant wait list, including the more than 3,600<sup>ii</sup> Georgians waiting for a kidney transplant. Besides increasing the supply of kidneys available for transplants, living kidney donations can significantly decrease the

wait- time for patients to receive a transplant, thus reducing the number of patient deaths among those waiting for a transplant and lowering health care costs of prolonged dialysis treatments.

I began dialysis in January of 2000. It was the most life altering and devastating experience imaginable – going to a dialysis center three times a week and being so weak I could not work full-time. I was a wife and mother of two young daughters, and I felt like a failure. I had been placed on the transplant list at the Emory Transplant Center prior to beginning dialysis treatments. I was desperate to get a transplant and asked my family and friends if they would be willing to be a living donor. Some were disqualified because of medical conditions and others could not take the time off from their jobs needed for surgery and recovery. I waited 13 years, with 12 of those years on dialysis before a deceased donor kidney was a match for me. I have now been transplanted for nine years, and I am so grateful for the sacrifice a family made to donate their loved one’s organs. If there were benefits available for living organ donors, such as this bill will provide, more patients would have the opportunity to have the special gift that I received and may not have to wait as long as I did for my transplant.

Living kidney donors are desperately needed because the number of ESRD patients waiting for a transplant is far greater than the number of kidneys that become available through deceased donor matches alone. Your favorable vote today will help expand the number of living kidney donors and save lives through increased kidney transplants.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment in support of SB 330.

Sincerely,

**Tangela Robinson**  
**Resident of Fairburn, Georgia**

xc: Hrant Jamgochian, J.D., LL.M.  
Chief Executive Officer

Elizabeth Lively, Eastern Region Advocacy Director  
1415 West 22<sup>nd</sup> Street, Tower Floor  
Oak Brook, IL 60523  
[elively@dialysispatients.org](mailto:elively@dialysispatients.org)

---

<sup>i</sup> U.S. Renal Data System, 2020 Annual Report: <https://adr.usrds.org/2020/>

<sup>ii</sup> <https://optn.transplant.hrsa.gov/data/view-data-reports/state-data/>