ABOUT THE BILL

The Living Donation Tax Credit for Private Businesses would make a significant difference in the lives of thousands of Illinois residents considering donating an organ. Under this act, private employers who provide adequate time off from work (30 days paid leave) for living organ donation would be eligible for a tax credit for the withholding tax paid for that employee during the employee’s leave.

CURRENT SITUATION

- Kidneys can be donated by a living person in good health. Living kidney donation has the best health outcomes for End Stage Renal Disease as opposed to deceased donation or dialysis treatment.
- Nearly 3,500 people in Illinois are on the wait list for a kidney transplant, but by the end of 2018, only 302 received kidneys from living donors.
- Dialysis costs are huge. Medicare spends on average $34,780 a year for a transplant recipient compared to $90,971 a year for a hemodialysis patient.

$90,971 vs. $34,780

Annual Medicare spending on a dialysis patient.
Annual Medicare spending on a transplant patient.

PROBLEMS & BARRIERS

- Living organ donors are often out of work for testing, evaluation, surgery, and post-op care without time off or pay from work.
- Lack of insurance protection, higher premiums, and loss of jobs are barriers for someone who wants to donate an organ.
- There is no federal protection to ensure that donors will not lose their jobs for taking time off for organ donation surgery and recovery.

WHY A TAX CREDIT BILL?

- Expenditure reimbursement and guaranteed health coverage reduce risk undertaken by living kidney donors.
- Alleviates the burden of a potential financial loss for donors, who are selflessly saving another person’s life.
- 14 states and DC have organ or bone marrow donor leave policies for private-sector employees.
- Illinois currently only has laws in place protecting state employees.

Questions? Contact the National Kidney Foundation of Illinois for more information.
advocacy@nkfi.org | (312) 321-1500
Sources of facts and statistics:

- Organ Procurement and Transplant Network (OPTN) (2018)
- United States Renal Data System (USRDS) (2018)