Dear Speaker Heastie:

I write today to respectfully request that the New York State Assembly renew its longstanding commitment to improving the State’s organ and tissue donation rates **by including an Assembly specific appropriation of $150,000 for Donate Life New York State (NYS), formerly the New York Alliance for Donation, in our SFY23 Assembly One House and Enacted Budgets.**

Donate Life NYS relies annually on Legislative investment to support the vital work their team undertakes each day to improve the performance of the New York State Donate Life Registry for the organ, eye and tissue donation community statewide. The state’s dramatically improved financial position in SFY23 and beyond presents a unique opportunity to invest in connecting with communities that have historically proven challenging to communicate with in New York, and who often find themselves in disproportionate need within the donation community. **Donate Life NYS proposes to utilize the Assembly’s appropriation in SFY23 to underwrite targeted initiatives specifically designed to improve access to registration opportunities in these communities, and to engage those communities in an ongoing partnership to identify and engage opportunities to continue to improve access to and understanding of organ donation in the future for all New Yorkers.**

The Assembly has long been an important policy partner of the state’s organ and tissue donation mission and has provided vital support for the passage of critical legislation that has allowed Donate Life NYS to deliver measurable impacts on the number of lives saved by donation and transplant statewide. Over the past decade, New Yorkers have benefitted from the following important improvements as a direct result of these efforts:

* The NYS Donate Life Registry **grew by nearly four million enrollments.**
* The percentage of the state’s population enrolled in the Registry **grew from 20% to 45%.**
* The number of deceased organ donors **grew from 346 in 2012 to 556 in 2021.**
* The number of lives saved by deceased donor transplants **grew from 1,331 in 2012 to**

**2,568 in 2021.**

It is vital that the Assembly seize on the opportunity presented by SFY23, and invest more deeply our track record of vital improvements in access to organ donation registration opportunities. A comprehensive series of targeted programs, delivered by an organization with expertise in this subject matter, needs to be undertaken. **Donate Life NYS relies on the its partnership with the state to make continued progress in our effort to save and heal lives, and to that end, I am requesting the Assembly include its own $150,000 legislative addition in both the Assembly One House and the SFY23 Enacted Budgets, for a total Legislative appropriation of $1,000,000.** Our investments will allow Donate Life NYS to take a coordinated and strategic approach to improving equitable connections and opportunities to donate for all New Yorkers, to and increasing the availability of organs for transplant.

The Assembly’s leadership and support for these funds can give hope to thousands of patients and families across New York waiting for organ and tissues donations. Thank you for your consideration, and for our continued leadership for this vital cause for all New Yorkers.