Dear Leader Stewart-Cousins :

I write today to respectfully request that the New York State Senate renew its longstanding commitment to improving the State’s organ and tissue donation rates **by restoring and expanding its appropriation to $850,000 for Donate Life New York State (NYS), formerly the New York Alliance for Donation, in our SFY23 Senate One House and Enacted Budgets.**

Donate Life NYS relies annually on the Senate’s 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 designate the expanded portion of Senate’s appropriation in SFY23 to underwrite targeted initiatives specifically designed to improve access to registration opportunities in these communities, and to engage these communities in an ongoing partnership to identify and operationalize opportunities to continue to improve access to and understanding of organ donation in the future for all New Yorkers.**

The Senate has long been an important partner of the state’s organ and tissue donation mission by both providing expanded funding, and supporting 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 Senate seize the opportunity presented by SFY23 and continue 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 cannot continue to succeed without the assistance of the state, and to that end, I am requesting the Senate restore an expanded $850,000 legislative addition in both the Senate One House and the SFY23 Enacted Budgets.** Your 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 Senate’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.