***Governor Hochul email copy:***

Dear Governor Hochul:

**I strongly urge you to sign the “Doorways to Donation Act” (S.8805 Breslin/A.10186 Gunther). This legislation amends public health and insurance laws**, adding the opportunity to enroll in the New York State Donate Life Registry as an organ, eye, and tissue donor to administrative processes by which individuals obtain, renew, and manage their health insurance coverage.

New York State is a national leader in championing innovative opportunities for individuals to enroll as organ, eye, and tissue donors. New York was the first state in the nation to include the donor designation question in the voter registration application, New York State of Health insurance marketplace, and as a part of professional licensing applications. The impact of these efforts on Registry enrollments has been significant. Since 2010, **nearly 1.5 million donor enrollments have been generated** as a direct result of the policy changes pioneered by executive and legislative leadership.

We cannot let this momentum wane. The lives of nearly **8,300 men, women, and children currently waiting for an organ transplant** depend on it. Nearly 1,200 patients in New York State have been on the national transplant waiting list for more than five years. Sadly, in 2021 alone, nearly 500 New Yorkers died in part due to the pronounced shortage of donors. To help address these shortages, New York State needs to continue its legacy of adopting ground-breaking policies creating new and frequent opportunities for New Yorkers to register their consent to be organ and tissue donors.

Time after time, Donate Life NYS has offered common sense approaches have generated positive outcomes in addressing low participation rates in the state’s Registry. The work we have done together over the course of the **past 10 years produced a 139% growth in Registry enrollments**. Allowing New Yorkers to join the Registry during the process of enrolling in and managing their health insurance offers an ideal venue, as they are already considering healthcare options and choices.

While we can celebrate the tremendous Registry advancements driven by our collective investments, there are thousands of patients waiting for lifesaving transplants depending on us to be steadfast in our pursuit of continued growth. I strongly encourage passage of this act, which will provide millions of New Yorkers with new and regular access to opportunities to document their decision to make an anatomical gift upon their passing. By requiring private insurers to incorporate the donor designation question into the insurance enrollment and renewal process, New York would take yet another bold and significant step toward providing a lifesaving transplant for every New Yorker in need.

***Respectfully, I urge you to sign the******Doors to Donation Act (S.8805 Breslin/A.10186 Gunther).***