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*The mission of the American College
of Cardiology and the American
College of Cardiology Foundation
is to transform cardiovascular care
and improve heart health.*

April 11, 2019

Rep. Senfronia Thompson
Chair, House Public Health Committee
Room 3S.6
P.O. Box 2910
Austin, TX 78768

Dear Madame Chair Thompson:

The American College of Cardiology (ACC), a 52,000-member nonprofit medical society, is dedicated to enhancing the lives of cardiovascular patients.

ACC joins our Texas Chapter in support of HB 3874 which would rapidly grow our state's organ donor registry by converting Texas to a presumed consent 'opt-out' state when acquiring or renewing a driver's license at the DMV. This simply means that when acquiring or renewing a driver license an applicant would indicate if he or she does not wish to be listed on the Texas Donate Life organ donor registry. Studies have shown that this is the most accurate method for capturing intent.

Unfortunately, the current 'opt-in' policy is not working. As our Texas Chapter recognized, last year 563 patients on the Texas waitlist died because of the unavailability of a life-saving organ, and another 873 were removed because they were designated "Too Sick to Transplant," which led to their deaths. Texas lost 1436 lives in 2018 because we do not have enough organ donors.

As many countries have demonstrated, a significant increase in the availability of donated organs can be achieved through this simple non-controversial re-wording of the verbiage on driver license applications. Most European countries have adopted opt-out organ donor registry policies because they result in higher consent and transplant rates. The most recent examples are Wales in 2015 and England just last month.

Thank you for your commitment to growing organ donor registries. We look forward to working with you on this important issue. Should you have questions or concerns, please contact Frank Ryan at 202-375-6409 or fryan@acc.org.

Sincerely,

Richard Kovacs, MD, FACC
President, American College of Cardiology