



COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
STATE SENATOR
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SECOND WORCESTER DISTRICT
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Sen. Moore, Governor Patrick Kick-Off Organ and Tissue Donor Week

Senator Michael O. Moore (D-Millbury) hosted a press conference on Monday to kick off Organ and Tissue Donor Week at the State House. Sen. Moore was joined by Governor Deval Patrick, Registrar of Motor Vehicles Rachel Kaprielian, Representative Katherine Clark (D-Melrose), Sean Fitzpatrick of the New England Organ Bank, and Ann Linehan, mother of the late Laura Linehan and an advocate for “Laura’s Law.”

“Approximately 78 organ transplants take place in the United States every day, while at the same time, an average of 18 patients die every day while waiting for an organ transplant. For many, waiting for organs can mean the difference between life and death,” Sen. Moore said. “As medical procedures become more advanced and transplants become more plausible for patients in need, it is imperative that the number of organ donors increase accordingly to meet this demand.”

Governor Patrick made a special appearance. “As we mark Organ Donor Week, we must spread the word about the importance of organ donation and celebrate the invaluable role it plays in saving lives,” said Governor Patrick.

Sen. Moore is sponsoring Organ Donor Week in conjunction with the New England Organ Bank. April is considered Organ Donor Month. The purpose of the press conference was to kick off a week during which employees and visitors at the State House have an opportunity to sign up to be organ donors on their driver’s licenses.

Following the press conference, Sen. Moore signed up to be an organ donor himself. “After the New England Organ Bank and some of its volunteers from my district brought this information to my attention, I decided it was time I sign up as well. This week is about educating people, myself included,” said Sen. Moore.

“Right now 3,000 Massachusetts residents are on the waiting list,” said Registrar Kaprielian. “With our newest RMV web service, registering to save a life is just a click away. We’ve made it as convenient as possible for drivers to support the organ donor registry.”

Also participating in the event was Ann Linehan, whose daughter Laura died waiting for a liver transplant. Ann’s daughter Laura was born with a rare disease necessitating a liver transplant at the age of two. During the transplant procedure she was infected with hepatitis C from a blood transfusion and needed yet another liver. The Linehans moved to Florida in 2008, where the wait for a new liver is shorter. In early April, a liver became available, but Laura passed away during surgery. Mrs. Linehan is an advocate for “Laura’s Law,” which aims to increase the number of organ donors in the Commonwealth. Sen. Moore is a co-sponsor of the bill.

An art exhibit, *Making Memories*, will also be on display throughout the week in Doric Hall of the State House, featuring pieces by individuals across New England who have been touched by organ or tissue donation in some way.

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