

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

August 12, 2026

The Honorable Robert F. Kennedy Jr.
Secretary
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20201

The Honorable Mehmet Oz, M.D., M.B.A. Administrator
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services
200 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20201

Dear Secretary Kennedy and Administrator Oz:

We write as the congressional delegation representing Michigan to express our strong support for the recertification of Gift of Life Michigan, the federally designated non-profit Organ Procurement Organization (OPO) serving our state. As CMS undertakes this year's OPO recertification process, we urge you to thoughtfully consider the essential role Gift of Life Michigan—and its nearly 400 staff statewide—play in serving our communities and sustaining the systems that make life-saving organ, eye, and tissue donation and transplantation possible.

Since its founding in 1971, Gift of Life Michigan has built deep and enduring relationships with hospitals, health systems, medical examiners, transplant centers, and local community leaders across the state. They have also developed a profound understanding of Michigan's population, the regional healthcare and governmental landscape, and the unique cultural contexts that shape effective donation work—expertise that cannot be quickly recreated or replaced without significant disruption and added taxpayer expense.

During the current certification cycle, Gift of Life Michigan has increased the number of organs available for transplant by 29% and expanded the Michigan Organ Donor Registry by 1.2 million people through sustained public education and community outreach¹². The organization has also grown youth education efforts from 3,700 to more than 38,000 students, per internal data. Additionally, according to data from the Michigan Department of Treasury and Michigan

¹ [Organ Donation](#), *Michigan Department of State*.

² [Donate Life America](#).

Department of State, Gift of Life Michigan worked with state legislators and the Secretary of State to make Michigan the first state in the nation to include a Donor Registry question on state income tax forms—an initiative that has already produced 38,000 new donor registrations since 2024³.

Given Gift of Life Michigan's decades of experience, strong performance, deep community partnerships, and critical role in ensuring access to donation and transplantation services, we urge CMS to provide full and fair consideration of the organization's longstanding service and effectiveness.

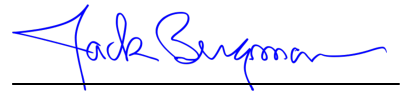
Maintaining continuity with a well-established, community-rooted OPO is essential to preserving public trust, supporting donor families, and ensuring patients across Michigan and the nation continue to receive timely, high-quality, life-saving donation and transplant services.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,



Debbie Dingell
Member of Congress



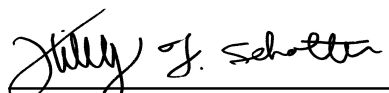
Jack Bergman
Member of Congress



Rashida Tlaib
Member of Congress



Kristen McDonald Rivet
Member of Congress



Hillary J. Scholten
Member of Congress

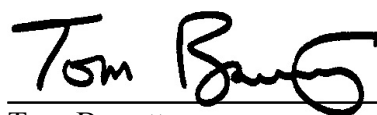


Haley M. Stevens
Member of Congress

³ [State-Based Solutions for Michigan's Organ Donation System](#), Alex Krabill.



Shri Thanedar
Member of Congress



Tom Barrett
Member of Congress



Bill Huizenga
Member of Congress



John R. Moolenaar
Member of Congress



Tim Walberg
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