

Press



Release

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For Immediate Release

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County Legislature Supports Change to NYS Public Health Law

Requests the NYS Legislature to Approve Electronic Signatures to Permit Anatomical Gifts

New City, NY (May 20, 2010) – Rockland County Legislators Douglas J. Jobson and Edwin Day sponsored a resolution to request the NYS Legislature to support an amendment to the Public Health Law and the State Technology Law to permit an electronic signature to make an anatomical gift, as proposed by NYS Senate bill S.4999 and NYS Assembly bill A.10664. The resolution was unanimously approved at the May 18th, 2010 meeting of the Legislature.

Currently, residents wishing to register as a donor in New York must obtain a hard copy of the NYS Donate Life Organ and Tissue Donor Registry Enrollment Form, complete and sign the form and mail it to the Registry. National donor advocacy groups claim that the mail-back requirement is a major barrier to increasing New York's low rate of registration. New York has one of the lower donor registration rates according to a 2009 report card of the 49 states that have organ donor registries. Forty-four of those states allow for an electronic signature.

"When people sign onto donor registries, it is a selfless and compassionate act," said Legislator Jobson, "and it is important that the process to authorize the potential to provide a "gift of life" is streamlined and easy to accomplish."

Legislator Day said, "This will both facilitate the registration of people who are looking to help this critical cause, but also raise awareness to the defined need in our community for organ donors. Thousands are affected by this issue, and increasing anatomical gifts is a vital public health goal that I am proud to be part of."

Legislators Jobson and Day recommend to residents who wish to learn more about the donor registry or wish to register, to contact the New York State Department of Health, Corning Tower, Empire State Plaza, Albany, NY 12237 or access the website at www.health.state.ny.us.

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