

UNOS Supports the Inclusion of Organ and Tissue Donation Education in State High School Curricula

February 23, 2024

UNOS supports the “Teaching Organ and Tissue Donation and Saving Lives” state model legislation introduced in Georgia by state Senator John Albers and policies that allow for state boards of education to include organ donation education in high school curricula.

In the United States, registering as an organ donor happens through state registries. Anyone 18 years of age or older is eligible to register to be an organ donor, and some states even allow people under 18 (15-17) to register. The most popular way to register as an organ donor is in-person at the department of motor vehicles (DMV). People may also register online or through the Health app on iPhones^[1].

Currently, most states do not require course work on organ donation in high schools. This means most people receive no formal education about organ donation before deciding whether to register as a donor at the DMV. Educating youth about organ donation before they must decide whether to be a donor will raise awareness for the importance of organ donation and could increase the number of registered donors.

^[1] <https://www.organdonor.gov/sign-up/how>