



American Association of Tissue Banks

July 3, 2006

TO: National Conference of Commissioners on Uniform State Laws (NCCUSL)

The American Association of Tissue Banks (AATB) is pleased to add our endorsement to the proposed 2006 revision of the Uniform Anatomical Gift Act (UAGA), and we respectfully request that the NCCUSL do the same.

Every year, the AATB's more than 1,100 individual members and 95 accredited tissue banks recover tissue from more than 25,000 donors and distribute in excess of 1.5 million allografts for transplant. More than a million Americans annually depend on these transplants to relieve their pain, regain their mobility, restore their limbs, and save their lives. In a very real sense, therefore, what you do at this meeting will save and improve the lives of millions of Americans.

For almost two decades, the UAGA has provided the legal framework and the fundamental law for anatomical donation. Over those years, however, donation practices and federal regulation have changed significantly. To make the UAGA consistent with modern-day practices, and to cure discrepancies and lack of uniformity between the states, the UAGA needs to be revised.

At the invitation of the NCCUSL Drafting Committee, the AATB has been privileged to join its fellow donation organizations for the past several years and work with the committee throughout the drafting process. We are extremely appreciative for that opportunity, and we commend NCCUSL and the committee for your consideration and the foresight to ensure a workable draft. As a result, the committee has produced a model bill that will be supported by the donation community, and one that is worthy of your approval for enactment in all the states.

The AATB thanks you for your service as a NCCUSL Commissioner and for your thoughtful consideration of this important legislation. You have the support of the AATB for passage of this act and our commitment to work with you for its enactment in every state.

With best wishes.

Sincerely,



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