



NEWS RELEASE

Ohio Department of Public Safety
1970 W. Broad Street
Columbus, Ohio 43223-1102

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Contact: Tom Hunter
(614) 466-6178
Heather Blausey
(614) 384-7331

NEW PLATES TO PROMOTE ORGAN DONATION

April Commemorates Donate Life Month

COLUMBUS – A new specialty license plate recognizing the Ohio Donor Registry is available this week from the Ohio Bureau of Motor Vehicles. The image of the new plate can be found at www.bmv.ohio.gov.

"Donate Life" plates cost \$15 annually, in addition to the usual registration fees. A portion of the plate fees, \$5, will go to benefit the Ohio Department of Health's Second Chance Trust Fund (SCTF). The SCTF educates Ohioans about the difference one individual can make by signing up as an organ and tissue donor in the Ohio Donor Registry.

Approximately 18 times each day a man, woman or child dies while waiting for an organ transplant. In Ohio, more than 2,500 people – 650 in central Ohio – are waiting for an organ transplant at any time, and hundreds more await tissue transplants. In 2006 1,762,167 Ohio drivers were registered as organ donors.

The Ohio Donor Registry, established by the Ohio BMV in 2002, is a way for Ohioans to give legal consent for organ, tissue and eye donation at the time of their death. Anytime an individual renews or is issued a new driver license or state identification card, he or she is asked if they would like to become a donor. If the person answers yes, he or she is automatically entered into the registry.

"Purchasing the 'Donate Life' license plate will spread awareness of organ and tissue donation and honor those Ohio heroes who have shared life through donations," Director Guzmán said. "My wife and I are both registered as organ donors, and I encourage all Ohioans to consider adding their names to the Ohio Donor Registry and giving the gift of life."

"Donate Life" plates and other special plates can be ordered at deputy registrar locations, online at www.oplates.com, or by calling the Bureau of Motor Vehicles at 1-800-589-TAGS (1-800-589-8247). These plates may also be ordered as reserved or personalized plates with additional applicable fees. They may be issued to passenger vehicles, non-commercial trucks, motor homes, house vehicles and non-commercial trailers.

TED STRICKLAND, GOVERNOR
HENRY GUZMÁN, DIRECTOR