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For Immediate Release:

WIECKERT \$10,000 ORGAN DONATION BILL PASSES WISCONSIN SENATE AB 477 Now Moves On To The Governor's Desk

Today, the Wisconsin State Senate passed a first-of-its-kind piece of legislation in the nation, Assembly Bill 477 authored by State Representative Steve Wieckert (R-Appleton), by a large majority vote. AB 477 provides a tax deduction of up to \$10,000 to cover travel, lodging and lost wages for anyone who acts as a living organ donor.

"This is a very important moment to the thousands of people who are on the organ waiting list nationwide, who are now given a little more hope that an organ will be available in time to save their lives," Representative Steve Wieckert said.

Currently, over 80,000 people are on a waiting list for organ donations. 5,840 people tragically die each year for want of an organ, according to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

This legislation from the start had the support of Dr. Hans Sollinger, one of the world's best transplant surgeons based at UW-Medical Center, Medical College of Wisconsin, Wisconsin Medical Society, and the National Kidney Foundation. Actor Larry Hagman, Miss Wisconsin Tina Sauerhammer, and former Green Bay Packer John Brockington all previously testified in favor of this bill.

Recently, an Indiana legislator and medical doctor introduced this legislation in the Indiana legislature. "Each state that adopts this will significantly help to add to the pool of available organs nationwide," Wieckert said. "I am hopeful that with Wisconsin showing leadership by example, other states will follow our lead and enact similar legislation. National legislation would also be invaluable."

AB 477 will now move on to the Governor's desk.

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IDEALS, PRINCIPLES, PATRIOTISM

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