



Virginia House Commerce & Energy Committee
1000 Bank St.
Richmond, VA 23218

Chair Byron and Vice Chair Kilgore, members of the committee:

On behalf of the Chronic Disease Coalition, thank you for the opportunity to provide support for SB 271.

The Chronic Disease Coalition is a nationwide nonprofit organization dedicated to protecting the rights of chronic disease patients against discriminatory policies and practices. The coalition was founded in 2015 and has since worked to advocate for people living with long-term or lifelong health conditions such as diabetes, kidney disease, multiple sclerosis, psoriasis, cancer, and other chronic diseases.

We are pleased to support this legislation, which would ensure that living organ donors are protected from discriminatory policies based solely on their status as a donor. Organ donation is a selfless gift that provides chronic disease patients a second chance at life.

However, certain barriers exist for potential donors; they are often met with rising insurance rates, preemptive limits on the donation itself, and a lifetime of health care questions.

Every year, 6,000 Americans become living donors of kidneys, livers, and other organs to save the lives of family members, friends, colleagues, and even complete strangers. Yet another name is added to the transplant waitlist every 10 minutes. Discriminatory insurance policy is dissuading people from participating in this crucial assistance.

As health care leaders in Virginia, you must encourage living organ donation and not punish those that provide the ultimate gift through insurance discrimination and rising treatment costs.

We urge you to join the Chronic Disease Coalition in supporting this legislation. This is an important step that will lead to better patient outcomes across Virginia.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Nathaniel Brown
Director of Advocacy