



“No one should be denied their right to life simply because of their intellectual and/or developmental disabilities.”¹

-Lawmakers in a letter to the HHS Office for Civil Rights to address “persistent discrimination in organ transplantation.

+ Policy Brief

Developmental Disability Awareness and Advocacy Day

March 7, 2018

Ohio HB 332 End Organ Discrimination on the Basis of Disability

Individuals with disabilities have been denied transplants on the basis of their disability. People with disabilities are just as-if not slightly more-likely to follow instructions from their doctor after a transplant. For many people, this means their transplant has just as much-if not more-chance for success. A successful organ transplant could allow a person to live many more years.



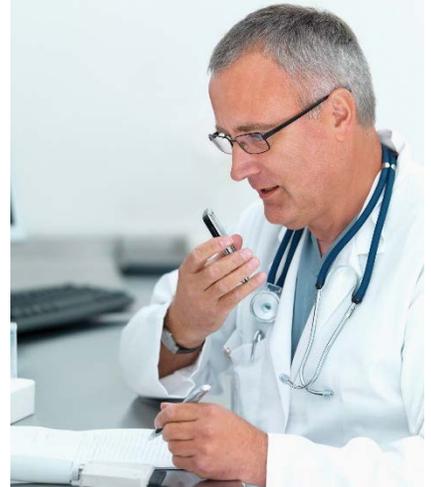
Existing Laws

Laws like the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and the Rehabilitation Act already prohibit discrimination at the doctor’s office or hospital. People with disabilities, however, are still being denied organs. Ohio needs to join other states by having a law that specifically prohibits discrimination in organ transplantation. Doctors should make fair decisions based on their medical evaluations of the patient. Treatment centers must be accessible to give people with disabilities a chance to maintain their health.



Facts about HB332

- Research shows that people with disabilities are just as likely to have a successful organ transplant-even more than a decade later.²
- People with disabilities often have several people in their lives to provide support during recovery.²
- This bill would not change doctors’ ability to make difficult decisions when evaluating a person for a transplant.
- HB 332 aims to end discrimination and give more people a chance at a quality life.



Resources to Learn More

¹Disability No Reason to Deny Organ Transplants, Lawmakers Say
<https://www.disabilitycoop.com/2016/10/24/disability-organ-lawmakers/22920/>

²Organ Transplantation for People with Disabilities: A Toolkit for State Advocates from ASAN
<http://autisticadvocacy.org/policy/toolkits/organs/>

Ohio HB 332

End Organ Discrimination on the Basis of Disability

Talking Points

Developmental
Disability Awareness
and Advocacy Day

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My name is _____.

I live in _____.

People with disabilities who need organ transplants face discrimination.

House Bill 332 protects people with disabilities from discrimination. It also makes sure treatment facilities, where people with disabilities might need to go for follow-up after a transplant, are accessible.

The lives of people with disabilities are worth saving. We often lead active, happy, healthy lives.

My life has value. If I ever needed a transplant, my disability shouldn't be a reason I won't have a chance for a longer life.