



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**For More Information, Please Contact:**  
Adrian McCarthy, (o) 503-552-5015 or (m) 503-730-9721  
amccarthy@gardcommunications.com

## **Donate Life Northwest Announces Changes to Organ Donation Process**

**PORTLAND, Ore.** — April 1, 2008 — Donate Life Northwest and Oregon’s organ, eye and tissue recovery agencies announced today that changes will be made in the coming months to accept the “D” designation on Oregon driver’s licenses as first person consent for organ, eye and tissue donation.

The passage of the revised Uniform Anatomical Gift Act (UAGA) in 2007 strengthened Oregon’s existing UAGA law by aligning it with national trends. Oregon’s recovery agencies will join those in many other states in the national movement towards accepting the “D” on a person’s driver’s license as formal consent. Prior to the change, family members were asked for consent at the time of donation.

To help take the burden off families, Donate Life Northwest launched a safe, secure online donor registry last April, which by Oregon law signaled an individual’s consent and ensured that person’s wish to be an organ, eye and tissue donor was honored.

However, after launching the online donor registry last year, “we kept hearing from Oregonians who were surprised that the ‘D’ on their license didn’t qualify in the same way,” said Mary Jane Hunt, executive director of Donate Life Northwest. “So this shift is in line with what most Oregonians already believe.”

More than 2,500 people are waiting for organ transplants across the Pacific Northwest. With one donor registry and three ways to register to be a donor — online at [www.donatelifenw.org](http://www.donatelifenw.org), at the DMV, or by filling out a paper form — this shift “provides significant hope for those waiting for transplants,” noted Hunt.

###

### **About Donate Life Northwest**

By providing current information on organ, eye and tissue donation, Donate Life Northwest (formerly Oregon Donor Program), a nonprofit organization, has been advocating for improved donation laws, educating the public and raising the region’s donation rate since 1975.  
For more information, visit [donatelifenw.org](http://donatelifenw.org) or call 800-452-1369.