1 WEST WILSON STREET

MADISON WI 53701-2659



Jim Doyle Governor

Karen E. Timberlake Secretary FAX: 608-267-2832 TTY: 888-701-1253 dhs.wisconsin.gov

P O BOX 2659

608-266-1251

March 22, 2010

Dear Champions of Organ, Tissue and Eye Donation:

Wisconsin's new web-based online Donor Registry will officially launch March 29, 2010, making it easier than ever for individuals to authorize organ, tissue and eye donation, 24/7. You may access the registry at **YesIWillWisconsin.com**.

Developed and launched by the Department of Health Services, the Registry will help save and improve lives. More than 1,500 people in Wisconsin await life-saving organ transplants. Hundreds more need their sight restored through eye donation. And thousands more welcome the chance to live painlessly with a bone or soft tissue transplant.

The registry will not change your role in donation and transplantation. The site allows a person with a driver's license or state I.D. to authorize donation in an easy-to-use, confidential, protected and private way. Organ, tissue and eye recovery professionals access a person's decision at the time of death and provide written verification of that decision.

- Previous donors who already have an orange dot on their driver's license or state I.D. should still sign up. New donors can register online at <u>YesIWillWisconsin.com</u> or at the Department of Transportation/Division of Motor Vehicles when they renew their license or I.D. Anyone 15 ½ and older may register.
- Registering online takes only minutes. Forty-six states with registries have already demonstrated that registries work.
- The Registry helps ensure that the decision to be a donor is honored. Registering makes a record of anatomical gift and legally authorizes donation.

You will soon hear much more about **Yes, I Will Wisconsin** at press conferences March 29 - 30 and throughout the coming months with the promotion of 2010 National Kidney Foundation U.S. Transplant Games<sup>®</sup> in Madison this summer.

Answers to some frequently asked questions are available at <u>YesIWillWisconsin.com</u>. For other questions, please contact the organ, tissue, eye donation specialists with whom you work.

Sincerely,

Martha Mallon Organ & Tissue Donation Program WI Department of Health Services