Talking points:

Facts about organ, tissue and eye donation

* [Gift of Life Michigan](https://golm.org) is a federally designated non-profit organization tasked with helping fulfill the wishes of donors and their families. It employs more than 300 people who work 24/7 in hospitals across the state and at its Ann Arbor headquarters. Gift of Life serves as the intermediary between donor families, hospitals and transplant centers.
* More than 100,000 patients are waiting for a lifesaving organ transplant in the U.S. About 2,400 live in Michigan.
* One organ donor can save up to 8 lives with their kidneys (2), lungs (2), heart, liver, intestines and pancreas.
* Tissue donors can help as many as 75 people with gifts of bone, ligaments, nerves, skin, corneas and more.
* All major religions approve of organ, tissue and eye donation and consider it the ultimate act of human kindness. The largest religions in Michigan -- including Catholicism, Protestantism, Judaism and Islam – support an individual’s decision to donate.
* It costs nothing to donate organs and tissues. All procedures related to donation are covered by Gift of Life Michigan.
* Anyone is a potential organ donor despite medical conditions, including those with cancer, diabetes, lupus, HIV, hepatitis and many other illnesses.
* Organ and tissue donors are treated with the utmost respect and care and donation need not interfere with open casket viewings.
* Organ and tissue donation is not considered, and families are not approached, until every effort to save the patient’s life has been attempted. No one on the medical team trying to save the patient is involved in the transplant process.