



September 13th, 2023

Testimony on Senate Bill 318

Relating to: receipt of anatomical gifts by search and rescue organizations for human remains detection canines

Thank you, Chairwoman Cabral-Guevara and members of the committee for hearing this important legislation today. Canine search and rescue dogs serve as an integral part of teams searching for missing people. These dogs go through rigorous and extensive real-world training situations in order to hone their ability in detecting odors and adapting to various settings and environments. In order for these canines to effectively and successfully do their jobs, their training needs to be as real as possible so mistakes are not made in the field. Unfortunately, this isn't possible under current state statute.

State law does not allow them to train with real human organs, which hampers their ability to be fully prepared when missing person situations arise. SB 318 would allow certain search and rescue organizations or recovery teams that use human remains detection canines to receive anatomical gifts for training purposes. The use of real organs is important during training because it better simulates authentic scenarios helping the dogs be better prepared for the real thing.

For context, anatomical gifts are parts of the human body donated after death. Someone can donate their organs for research, education, eye and tissue bank, or to an organ procurement organization for transplant or therapy. General organ donations, where a donor does not specifically identify a recipient, will be given to the organization or person who needs them the most.

In order to determine which organization or person receives your anatomical gift, current statute has outlined a hierarchical procedure for passing on your organs. This bill, however, does not touch nor disrupt this hierarchy that is already in place. This bill would simply allow these canine teams the possibility of receiving anatomical gifts from a donor who specifically identifies their intent to have their organs be used for search and rescue training. SB 318 will grant these search and rescue teams' access to essential resources to train, find and save lives.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill, and I will happily take any questions you might have.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jesse James".

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CHANZ GREEN

STATE REPRESENTATIVE • 74TH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

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Senate Committee on Health

Thank you, Chairwoman Cabral-Guevara and other Senate committee members, for having a hearing on Senate Bill 318 relating to the receipt of anatomical gifts by search and rescue organizations for human remains detection canines.

Canine search and rescue dogs are crucial for teams searching for missing people. They go through extensive training in order to prepare for various situations in the real world, including different odors, items, settings, and environments. Yet, current Wisconsin state statutes do not allow them to train with real organs, which hampers their ability to be fully prepared when a real-world situation occurs.

Senate Bill 318 would allow certain search and rescue organizations or recovery teams that use human remains detection canines to receive anatomical gifts for training purposes so they are ready for that real-world situation.

Anatomical gifts are parts of the human body donated after death for transplantation, therapy, research, or education. This bill would not disrupt the current hierarchy for donating and receiving anatomical gifts; it simply allows someone to identify a search and rescue organization as the intended recipient of their donation.

I am grateful for the opportunity to work on this bill with my colleague from the Senate, Senator James. Thank you for your time today, and thank you for your consideration of this bill.