



A Podcast From Senator Florence Shapiro  
Texas Senate District 8  
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Today's podcast from Senator Shapiro is related to:

- [Organ Donation In Texas](#)

Time Count: 3 minutes, 8 seconds

*Today's Direct From Shapiro focuses on organ donation. Senator Shapiro, your Senate Resolution 895 was adopted by the full Senate this week and really speaks to the circle of life by telling the story of a special Texas family.*

**Senator Shapiro:** "The story was actually born of unspeakable sadness but ends with unspeakable joy. It honors the life of organ donor Hunter Mason Browning, a little 8-year-old boy, his family, and Ron Austin of Allen, an organ recipient, who is a constituent of mine.

**On July 18, 2007, as I said...8-year old Hunter Browning was in an ATV accident on his family ranch in Kaufman, Texas. Hunter's brother, Austin, ran back to his mother for help. The family called emergency airlift. Hunter was rushed to a hospital in Dallas where he survived for only a day."**

*What happened then?*

**Senator Shapiro:** "In this most difficult moment the Brownings chose to donate Hunter's organs, offering the most precious gift of life to those who need it. One of those in need was my constituent, Ron Austin, of Allen, who had been on kidney dialysis since May of 2004. His life was saved by receipt of one of Hunter's kidneys. And three other separate organ recipients are alive today because of the boy's other kidney, his heart, and his liver. In addition, two people's eyesight was restored after receiving Hunter's corneas."

*Organ donation has been an issue of interest in the Legislature this session, hasn't it? What has been done this session to help promote the gift of life?*

**Senator Shapiro: "I am very proud to say that I am supporter of organ donation, and I voted earlier this year for House Bill 2027, by Rep. John Zerwas. HB 2027 supports modernizing the Texas Anatomical Gift Act by making sure that a person's decision to donate is always honored and not subject to change by others.**

**Over 7,000 Texans are on organ donor waiting lists, many of them children, hoping for a second chance at life. The Legislature holds the responsibility of bringing and passing legislation, just like HB 2027, which can mean, literally, the difference between life and death. We in the Legislature must continue to bring this issue of organ donation to the public and make them more aware of the necessity for organ donation."**

*And it's your belief that we need organ donation right now, now more than ever?*

**Senator Shapiro: "2008 was the first time in 20 years that there was a decline in the number of donors used for organ transplants. Nationwide, the number of deceased donors climbed steadily from 4,000 in 1988 to a peak of 8,085 in 2007. Last year, it slid to 7,984, despite efforts to get the word out that donating organs can save lives.**

**The Senate, this week, reiterated our strong desire to highlight the importance of organ donation. It truly can save a life."**

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