**MMI Sample Response – CRITICAL THINKING - PESTLE**

**(Prompt shown on screen before actors begin)**

In some countries there is presumed consent for organ donation (it is assumed that you wish to donate your viable organs unless you opt out). Canada has the opposite system where you must sign up to be an organ donor. Do you think we should have presumed consent in Canada? Discuss this issue.

**STUDENT** *enters the room and sits down in the chair*

**Ok,** so I am going to discuss the pros and cons of presumed organ donation being implemented in Canada with hopes that the program will increase organ donor rates.

I am going to assume that “presumed consent” is applicable for all ages of the population.

**Ok.** I am going to take a look at some pros and cons of assumed organ donation consent from a social, economic, and ethical perspective.

From a Social view presumed organ donation can be a good move because countries with the presumed organ donation system have seen an increase in organ donor registration. More availability of organs is life changing for those in need – it really creates a culture where it is morally acceptable to donate organs after someone passes away; but depending on culture (this is a diverse country) it could be very shocking to expect that organs are donated – how would a new immigrant, or seniors, or different marginalized populations understand the implications of not opting out or even know they need to opt out.

Ummm **OK.** It can also be argued that presumed organ donation does not improve the rate of organ donors, because at the end of the day I think that the family can overrule the donor’s decisions. Also, a big change like this could upset many Canadians who do not want to donate their organs and now have to go through a process to opt out of being an organ donor. That could be very stressful. So, I believe that from a social standpoint that switching to presumed organ donation has benefits as well as potential negative effects. I may want to look at other ways to improve organ donation rates that will not make a large portion of Canada’s population uncomfortable.

From an economic perspective, this model could be viewed as positive because there could be an increase in donations, which would increase the amount of transplant surgeries. With less time waiting in hospitals and on lists, medical costs could decrease and people would be able to go back to work faster, and contribute to the economy whether that be a job, or the domestic economy.

But, it would cost money to educate the public and implement the program, and there could also be a higher demand of surgeons or medical staff to handle the increased number of organ transplants that would possibly even out the savings.

**OK, so** from an ethical perspective Canadians still have the same choice as always, it’s just putting the onus on the public to opt out instead of opt in. However, could you imagine what it would be like to come as an immigrant to a new country and be told (perhaps) that unless you opt out of this program then you are an organ donor? What if this was a difficult concept for an immigrant to understand due to cultural and language barriers, and everything else they have to deal with at the time that may seem like a higher priority? **Ummm**

As long as people are properly educated on the process of organ donation in Canada and had the option to choose what they wanted – either process is fine. With presumed consent I worry about how, and when, you would teach this process to new immigrants when they arrive in Canada. So much is already so overwhelming.

***STUDENT***

*Student takes a moment to run over their answer in their head. (10 seconds)*

**STUDENT**

 **OK,** so, my stance on this issue is that there is substantial evidence to support presumed organ donation.