



**NATCO, THE ORGANIZATION FOR TRANSPLANT PROFESSIONALS  
POSITION STATEMENT**

**DONOR FAMILY INCENTIVES**

***Statement of the Problem:***

The increasing number of patients awaiting transplants and the lack of increase in the number of donors has sparked interest in alternative methods to increase the donor pool. The idea of donor family incentives has taken on many forms. One idea includes a voucher to assist with funeral expenses. Other ideas include the creation of the "preferred" status category for donor family members should the need arise for them to receive a transplant.

Any type of voucher/payment would have to be made in a way so that the public would not feel the medical community is buying organs and tissues, which is strictly forbidden in the National Transplant Act.

***Policy:***

The North American Transplant Coordinators Organization feels that it is premature to initiate donor family incentives. We do support the establishment of demonstration projects to determine the impact of such incentives. NATCO believes such projects should be carefully controlled and have clearly defined parameters established for participation, implementation and measurement of success. Public acknowledgment that there are demonstration projects in specific areas will be imperative. Pilot projects should be funded from savings achieved through administrative budget cuts in activities managed (or directed) by the Division of Transplantation.

**Revised April 2002**