

Organ Donation and Recovery Improvement Act of 2004

Support \$5 million for funding of the Organ Donation and Recovery Improvement Act in the Labor, HHS, and Education appropriations bill for Fiscal Year 2007.

- Currently more than 90,000 Americans are awaiting organ transplantation
- Almost 5,000 this year will die never having received a live-saving organ

REQUEST—The Act, enacted in 2004, authorizes \$25 million in addition to the current \$23 million appropriated to the Division of Transplantation at the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA). *We ask that Congress appropriate \$5 million of the \$25 million authorization level in new money in order to begin to implement this important new law:*

\$5 million in funding would include the following:

- \$2 million in new federal funds for the reimbursement of travel and subsistence expenses for living donors—healthy donors who give one kidney or a portion of their liver—who would otherwise be unable to donate.
- \$1 million in new funding for grants and demonstration projects to more effectively promote organ donation.
- \$1 million to provide grants to hospital based “organ coordinators” that can increase the rate of successful organ donations and transplants.
- \$1 million for studies by the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) into existing and new methods for organ recovery, preservation, and transportation.

BACKGROUND—Congress passed the “Organ Donation and Recovery Improvement Act of 2004” (P.L. 108-216) and President Bush signed it into law on April 5, 2004.

- A large bi-partisan majority in the House and a unanimous Senate passed this legislation.
- The HRSA’s Division of Transplantation has primary federal oversight for transplantation programs.
- The AHRQ has a new authorization under the bill to improve scientific advances in the recovery, preservation and transportation of organs.
- The Office of Management and Budget, through the Program Assessment Rating Tool (PART) program, has set the goal to double the number of transplanted organs to 42,800 by 2013.

COST BENEFITS—An increase in donor organs not only saves lives, but also saves the federal government millions of dollars in dialysis and other health care costs. Medicare would avoid direct dialysis costs exceeding \$55,000 per patient per year for each patient transplanted. With an average wait of 4 years for a transplant, Medicare would save a minimum of \$220,000 per transplanted patient over 4 years, not including the cost of the transplant.

Transplant Roundtable Members

American Association for the Study of Liver Diseases
American Association of Kidney Patients
American Association of Tissue Banks
American Liver Foundation
American Society of Pediatric Nephrology
American Society of Transplant Surgeons
American Society of Transplantation
Association of Organ Procurement Organizations
Eye Bank Association of America
Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation
NATCO - The Organization for Transplant Professionals
National Kidney Foundation
United Network for Organ Sharing