



Stop Organ Trafficking Now!

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Slides and draft bill attached. Data file at www.stoporgantraffickingnow.org/resources/datafile/

- * Congress passed the National Organ Transplant Act (NOTA) in 1984 to expand deceased organ procurement and to prevent a market in organs. Congress did not intend to make living organ donation more difficult for Americans willing to help other Americans. (See Slides 9-10 and legislative history)
- * We advocate that Congress pass the attached legislation to bring NOTA back to fulfilling its original intent, which was to: 1) Increase the number of available organs for transplant; and 2) Discourage black market organ brokering. The proposed legislation will save American lives, reduce illegal organ trafficking, and help decrease Medicare spending. (See draft SOTN bill, attached.)
- * More than 120,000 Americans are waiting for transplants--100,000 of them need kidneys. (See slide no. 1)
- * It is far more expensive for Medicare to keep patients on dialysis than give them transplants. Each additional donated kidney would save Medicare as much as \$275,000 per year. In addition to reduced costs, dialysis patients who receive a transplant will have both a longer and better quality of life. (See Slide no. 14)
- * When NOTA was passed, Congress thought cadaver organs could solve the organ shortage. But with the passage of time, the gap between available organs and the number of Americans who needed transplants has continued to grow. (See Slides 9-10, legislative history, and Data files nos. (02) – (02d))
- * Today, even if every American were willing to be a deceased donor, there still wouldn't be enough organs to solve the current kidney shortage. **But, more living donors could fill the gap.** (See Slide nos. 6-8, and Data files nos. (02), (02c), and (20) – (20b))
- * Although federal and state governments have tried a variety of measures to ease the financial burden on living donors, donations have not increased. On the other hand, the purchasing of illegal organs on the black market by Americans continues, possibly even at a higher rate than in previous decades. (See Slide nos. 11, 16, and Data files (30) and (30a))
- * Additionally, prospective donors may not be able to afford donation related non-medical expenses, such as travel, lodging, and essential household expenses. (See Slide no. 13, and Data file nos. (01a)-(01f))
- * Yet, the organ shortage can be turned around by removing disincentives to living donation with a two prong-approach consistent with Congress's original intent in passing NOTA:
 - 1) Permit Medicare coverage of non-medical donation related expenses for living donors willing to help those at the top of the organ waiting list, that is, those patients most in need.
 - 2) Allow IRS approved charities to help living donors with non-medical donation-related expenses while prohibiting compensation for brokering donor/recipient matches.

PLEASE CONSIDER SPONSORING OR SUPPORTING THE ATTACHED BILL