



NATIONAL KIDNEY  
FOUNDATION®



March 3, 2025

The Honorable John Thune  
Majority Leader, US Senate  
511 Dirksen Senate Office Building,  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Chuck Schumer  
Minority Leader, US Senate  
322 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Bernie Sanders  
Ranking Member, Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions  
332 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

RE: S. 532, the *Organ Procurement and Transplantation Network (OPTN) Fee Collection Authority Act*

Dear Majority Leader Thune, Minority Leader Schumer, and Ranking Member Sanders;

The National Kidney Foundation (NKF), representing over 37 million Americans affected by kidney disease, writes to express our strong support for S. 532, the "*OPTN Fee Collection Authority Act*". Recently introduced by Senators Chuck Grassley and Bill Cassidy, this bill authorizes the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) to collect registration fees from OPTN member institutions.

Shortcomings in our organ donation and transplantation system have reached critical levels. With nearly 90,000 Americans currently waiting for a kidney transplant and an average wait time exceeding five years, these system inefficiencies have real human costs. Current deficiencies have resulted in potential donor organs going unprocured and thousands of donated organs being unused ("organ discards"), leaving patients discouraged and the transplant community frustrated. Congress responded with unequivocal bipartisan support by passing the "*Securing the U.S. Organ Procurement and Transplantation Network Act*" (P.L. 118-14). The OPTN Modernization Initiative addresses these shortcomings by fostering greater transparency, increasing accountability, and improving overall system performance.

This proposal to provide HRSA with the legal authority to collect fees (historically collected by the United Network for Organ Sharing as the OPTN contractor) is essential for proper implementation of the new law. By establishing direct federal oversight of these funds, S. 532 ensures that resources are properly allocated to strengthen the organ transplantation infrastructure, expand access to care, and ultimately save more lives. We estimate this change could help thousands more patients receive lifesaving transplants each year.



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On behalf of patients, their families, and organ donor families, we urge you to schedule a vote on this legislation at the earliest opportunity. The lives of those waiting for transplants depend on swift action to modernize our organ procurement system. Thank you for your continued leadership in improving organ donation and transplantation.

Sincerely,

Kevin Longino, CEO  
Transplant Recipient

Kirk Campbell, MD  
President

CC: The Honorable Chuck Grassley  
The Honorable Bill Cassidy