

DATE

Dear **[Congressperson/State Office Holder]**,

Given my firsthand knowledge of the life-giving work of Organ Procurement Organizations (OPOs), I oppose the meaningless and potentially devastating changes CMS is considering to our organ donation system.

[Describe personal experience. Include relationship to donor/recipient, location, year, etc.]

The U.S. has the best organ donation system in the world, with a transplant rate nearly double that of Europe. And organ donation is extremely complex – scientifically, medically and personally – requiring precision and expertise from beginning to end. In 2019 alone, U.S. doctors performed 35,746 organ transplants, touching thousands of lives in the process. For your reference, I have attached a fact sheet that accurately outlines the current status of the system.

While I understand the desire to refine and improve such a vital process, the abrupt changes CMS is considering would have dire consequences – for recipients, donor families and the integrity of the entire process. As **[INSERT TITLE]**, please use your influence to urge CMS to proceed cautiously and with great consideration before making any changes, particularly changes that threaten to decertify our OPOs.

In my experience, OPOs deftly manage the complicated, rigorous, time-sensitive process of organ procurement and delivery with professionalism, transparency – and, most importantly, great care. Whether you are a grieving parent or a hopeful recipient, you must be able to trust that those who are managing your loved one's transplantation process from beginning to end know exactly what they're doing and have your best interests at heart. OPOs earn that trust – time and again.

Please protect donor and recipient families by urging CMS to bring all parties in our organ donation system to the table to consider improvements to it – including, but not exclusively OPOS. This is the most effective way to make the best system even better.

Sincerely,

NAME

ADDRESS