



January 19, 2024

Chairman Robert Aderholt
House Appropriations Subcommittee
Labor, Health and Human Services,
Education, and Related Agencies
Washington, DC 20515

Ranking Member Rosa DeLauro
House Appropriations Subcommittee on
on Labor, Health and Human Services,
Education, and Related Agencies
Washington, DC 20515

Chair Tammy Baldwin
Senate Appropriations Subcommittee
Labor, Health and Human Services,
Education, and Related Agencies
Washington, DC 20510

Ranking Member Shelley Moore Capito
Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on
on Labor, Health and Human Services,
Education, and Related Agencies
Washington, DC 20510

RE: HRSA OPTN Modernization, FY24 Appropriations

Chairs Aderholt and Baldwin and Ranking Members DeLauro and Capito:

As the leading, independent, national organizations representing patients, organ donors and donor families, transplant surgeons and physicians, and other transplant health professionals, the [American Association of Kidney Patients](#) (AAKP), [the American Society of Transplant Surgeons](#) (ASTS), and the [American Society of Transplantation](#) (AST) urge Congress to finalize the FY 2024 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies appropriations bill to support HRSA's Organ Procurement and Transplantation Network (OPTN) Modernization Initiative and sustain such funding beyond FY 2024.

Our organizations are working with HRSA and key stakeholders to improve and modernize the system to better serve transplant candidates, recipients, donors, and donor families. We are seeking prioritization of changes to increase access to transplantation, improve equity in access to both living and deceased donor transplantation, and foster research and transplant system innovation. We are also hopeful that the modernization will include thorough and continuing assessments of the potential impacts to transplant candidates and recipients and establish effective communication among all transplant stakeholders.

As the demand for life-saving organs continues to outpace supply – with more than 100,000 individuals awaiting a transplant in the United States – our organizations remain committed to working collaboratively with all stakeholders to achieve our shared goal of improving the transplant system to save more lives. As such, we ask that Congress finalize the FY 2024 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies appropriations bill at or exceeding President Biden's proposed increase of \$36 million, for a total of \$67 million to support these critical efforts.

Sincerely,

American Association of Kidney Patients
American Society of Transplant Surgeons
American Society of Transplantation