

June 20, 2024

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
U.S. Secretary
U.S Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, DC 20590

The Honorable Michael Whitaker
Administrator
Federal Aviation Administration
800 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20591

Dear Secretary Buttigieg and Administrator Whitaker,

As patients, organ donors and donor families, and transplant and medical experts involved in the organ donation and transplant community, we urge you to convene the working group outlined in Section 1102 of the **Securing Growth and Robust Leadership in American Aviation Act** (Public Law No: 118-63). The working group is tasked with determining best practices to make recommendations for modernizing federal protocols for donor organs as they travel through the nation's commercial air system.

Organs are currently flown as cargo, which can result in logistical issues that heighten the risk of an organ not being able to be transplanted. Allowing organs to fly above-wing in the cabin of an airplane will help to address these logistical risks and ensure donor organs reach their intended recipients safely and efficiently.

Thank you for your efforts thus far to work with some members of the organ donation and transplantation community on improving flight options for the gifts of life entrusted to us by donors and their families. Our organizations look forward to the positive impacts of the working group.

Sincerely,

American Association of Kidney Patients
American Foundation for Donation & Transplantation
American Kidney Fund
American Liver Foundation
American Society for Histocompatibility and Immunogenetics
American Society of Nephrology
American Society of Transplantation
American Society of Transplant Surgeons
Association of Organ Procurement Organizations
Donate Life America
Donate Life Virginia
Intestinal Rehab & Transplant Unwrapped
Kidney Care Partners
Kidney Transplant Collaborative
North American Transplant Coordinators Organization
Nationwide Organ Recovery Transport Alliance
Organ Donation Advocacy Group

Renal Physicians Association

Transplant Families

Transplant Recipients International Organization

United Network for Organ Sharing

Waitlist Zero