

June 20, 2024

The Honorable Maria Cantwell
Chair, U.S. Committee on Commerce, Science, &
Transportation
United States Senate
511 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Ted Cruz
Ranking Member, U.S. Committee on
Commerce, Science, & Transportation
United States Senate
167 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Sam Graves
Chair, U.S. Committee on Transportation &
Infrastructure
United States House of Representatives
1135 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rick Larsen
Ranking Member, U.S. Committee on
Transportation & Infrastructure
United States House of Representatives
2163 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chair Cantwell, Ranking Member Cruz, Chair Graves, and Ranking Member Larsen:

As patients, organ donors and donor families, and transplant and medical experts involved in the organ donation and transplant community, we extend our most sincere thanks for including an organ transportation provision in the Securing Growth and Robust Leadership in American Aviation Act (H.R. 3935). The section will support the modernization of federal protocols that reduce the risk of damaging or delaying donor organs traveling through the nation's commercial air system.

The provision tasks the Department of Transportation (DOT), coordinating with the FAA, to convene a working group to help develop best practices and identify hindrances for transporting an organ in the cabin of a commercial aircraft. The working group will consist of commercial air carriers, organ procurement organizations and transplant hospitals, flight attendants, and any other relevant federal agencies.

This stakeholder-inclusive approach will allow the working group to reach an informed solution that represents our community's needs, benefits transplant candidates, and honors the lifesaving gifts of organ donors. We look forward to supporting the working group going forward.

Thank you again for your dedication to strengthening the nation's organ donation and transplantation system.

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