

October 30, 2023

The Honorable Beth Van Duyne  
United States House of Representatives  
1725 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Van Duyne:

As stakeholders in the organ donation and transplantation community, we thank you for your leadership in introducing the *Saving Organs One Flight at a Time Act* (H.R. 4362). This legislation advances our shared goal of ensuring the safe and timely transport of donor organs through the nation's commercial air systems for the benefit of patients in need of a lifesaving transplant.

Prior to the attacks on September 11, donor organs intended for transplant traveled above wing on commercial flights. Transplant professionals delivered organs, mostly kidneys, through security to and from aircraft. Airport protocols changed after the September 11 attacks, which prevented transplant professionals from accompanying organs directly to flight gates. Organs were relegated as cargo and are still transported as such today.

Treating organs as cargo prevents organs from being transported when needed. Organs transported as cargo typically must arrive at an airport 60 to 120 minutes prior to a flight's departure. If the organ arrives too close to the flight time, it cannot be transported on the intended flight. Additionally, cargo offices do not have uniform operating hours; instead, they vary by airport and airline. If an organ arrives at its destination when the cargo office is closed, couriers cannot retrieve the lifesaving organ. While these occurrences are uncommon, they are completely avoidable.

Your bill's rulemaking directive to the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and Transportation Security Administration (TSA) will ensure protocols are modernized to reduce the damage and delay of donor organs.

Thank you again for your commitment to improving 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  
Association of Organ Procurement Organizations  
American Society for Histocompatibility and Immunogenetics  
American Society of Nephrology  
American Society of Transplantation  
American Society of Transplant Surgeons  
Donate Life Virginia  
Kidney Care Partners  
Kidney Transplant Collaborative  
North American Transplant Coordinators Organization (NATCO)  
National Kidney Foundation  
Nationwide Organ Recovery Transport Alliance  
Organ Donation Advocacy Group  
Renal Physicians Association  
Transplant Families  
Transplant Recipients International Organization  
Transplant Unwrapped  
United Network for Organ Sharing (UNOS)  
Waitlist Zero