

April 1, 2009

The Honorable Byron Dorgan
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Re: HRSA Organ Donation & Transplantation Funding for FY 2010

Dear Senator Dorgan:

The undersigned organizations who are members of the “Transplant Roundtable,” a working coalition of organ transplant patients, organ donation professionals, and related research organizations, are pleased to offer their strong support for your amendment (#33) to the Senate budget bill, S.Con.Res. 13, which would add \$10 million to the FY 2010 budget for Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) organ donation and transplantation programs.

Your efforts last year in championing a first-ever funding increase for these programs were a meaningful first step to decreasing the lengthy organ donor waiting lists. Just prior to then, the Division of Transplantation (DoT) within HRSA did reallocate existing agency funds to begin funding a new program in fiscal years 2007 and 2008. This program reimbursed travel and subsistence expenses for living donors whose low incomes may otherwise prohibit them from being able to donate. Since its implementation in October 2007, this program has contributed to 189 living donations.

In addition to reducing waiting list rolls and generating savings to the Medicare program, additional funding enables transplant programs to expand paired kidney donation opportunities among multiple intended donors. However, it is simply not possible for the HRSA DoT to achieve more than modest change without further Congressional support and dedicated funding.

We appreciate your leadership in securing these funds earlier last year and fully support your amendment this year to increase funding for the organ donation and transplantation programs of the federal government run through HRSA. Only with adequate funding will we see the lengthy organ donor waiting lists meaningfully decrease. Thank you again for your past support and for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

**American Liver Foundation
American Society of Pediatric Nephrology
American Society of Transplant Surgeons
American Society of Transplantation
Association of Organ Procurement Organizations
Renal Physicians Association
United Network for Organ Sharing
TRIO - Transplant Recipients International Organization**