



May 19, 2025

The Honorable Beth Van Duyne
U.S. House of Representatives
1725 Longworth
Washington DC 20515
Delivered Electronically

Re: Support for the “Removing Burdens From Organ Donation Act”

Dear Representative Van Duyne:

The American Society of Transplant Surgeons (ASTS), a medical specialty society representing approximately 2,000 professionals dedicated to excellence in transplantation surgery, supports the *Removing Burdens from Organ Donation Act* and its aims to improve the organ procurement process to save more lives of the thousands of Americans waiting on the national transplant list.

Our mission is to advance the art and science of transplant surgery through patient care, research, education, and advocacy. ASTS and its members are closely engaged in efforts at the federal, state, and local levels to speed the procurement and delivery of donated organs with the goal of improving health outcomes for all our patients.

Organ transplantation is a life-saving medical intervention that provides hope and a second chance at life for patients experiencing organ failure. Transplantation not only restores vital functions but also significantly improves quality of life, allowing patients to return to daily activities, work, and time with their loved ones. Advances in transplant medicine and donor matching have greatly enhanced long-term health outcomes and extended life spans for thousands of patients. Transplant surgeons honor the sacred gift of life given by living and deceased organ donors. Without the generosity of donors and their families, the incredible work of transplant surgeons and their care teams would not be possible.

ASTS supports the provisions in the *Removing Burdens from Organ Donation Act* that would mandate the use of technology to overcome communication hurdles that delay the organ procurement process ultimately delaying transplantation. The widespread use of electronic health records (EHR) following statutory changes in 2009 introduced obstacles for organ procurement organizations (OPO) to access a potential donor’s EHR, delaying lifesaving transplant surgeries due to bureaucratic inefficiencies. This bill would bring EHR into the twenty first century by leveraging technology to automatically alert OPOs of a potential donor and allow access to an imminent donor’s EHR in appropriate circumstances.

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ASTS supports an efficient process to speed organ delivery and encourages policymakers to evaluate additional measures to relieve undue pressures on all stakeholders involved in the transplant process. As with any improvements to the complex and dynamic transplantation process, the priority must be to protect patients, donors, and their families. As such, these systems must be constantly monitored and updated to best serve patient needs, and these systems must not interfere with the doctor-patient/donor referral relationship.

We are happy to lend our support to exploring new technologies that advance organ donation. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Emily Besser, Associate Director, Advocacy & Professional Practices, at emily.besser@asts.org.

Sincerely,



Ginny L. Bumgardner, MD, PhD, FACS