

## ASTS Supports Modernization of the Organ Procurement and Transplantation Network (OPTN)

### ASTS URGES CONGRESS TO ENSURE TRANSPARENCY, CONTINUED STAKEHOLDER INVOLVEMENT, AND DATA ACCESS UNDER THE NEW OPTN STRUCTURE

- The transplant system was initially structured as a public-private partnership between the OPTN and HRSA to guard against politicization of organ allocation decisions.
- For over 40 years, a single government contractor was selected by HRSA to operate the OPTN.
- In 2023, legislation was enacted to authorize HRSA to contract with multiple best-in class contractors to modernize OPTN operations.
- HRSA recently announced a new OPTN structure under which:
  - All OPTN operations will be managed by government contractors under HRSA's direct supervision.
  - Certain OPTN policy (i.e. organ allocation and member oversight) and budget-making authority will be performed by a new OPTN Board organization (INVEST) which will not include transplant centers and other organizations that previously had OPTN membership rights.
  - The new Board organization will not have its own staff or budget, but rather will be supported by a Board Support Contractor selected by and reporting to HRSA.

#### TRANSPARENCY

- **We urge Congress to ensure that the new modernized OPTN, which we understand will be solely controlled by HRSA, be fully transparent to the transplant stakeholders and the public.**

#### STAKEHOLDER INVOLVEMENT

- **We urge Congress to ensure that the transplant community elect the OPTN Board and that existing Board nomination procedures be followed (including for any special Board election held by the Secretary).**
- **We urge Congress to ensure that OPTN policymaking, which involves complex clinical considerations, be conducted without political or administrative interference.**

#### DATA ACCESS

- **We urge Congress to ensure that all OPTN data remain accessible to the public; that research directed by the transplant community priorities continue to be conducted to determine the impact of OPTN policies; and that such research be disseminated to the public irrespective of political considerations.**

*ASTS represents approximately 2,000 professionals dedicated to excellence in transplantation surgery. ASTS advances the art and science of transplant surgery through patient care, research, education, and advocacy. To learn more, visit [asts.org](https://asts.org) or email Emily Besser, MA, CAE, Associate Director of Advocacy at [emily.besser@asts.org](mailto:emily.besser@asts.org).*