



The Honorable Todd Young  
185 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

July 9, 2019

Dear Senator Young:

On behalf of the more than 37 million Americans living with kidney diseases, including the 720,000 with kidney failure who require a transplant or dialysis to live, thank you for your introduction of the Organ Procurement Optimization (OPO) Act. The more than 20,000 physicians, scientists, nurses, and other health professionals of the American Society of Nephrology (ASN) support your efforts and are committed to working with you to assist in the passage of this important legislation.

There are currently nearly 100,000 Americans on the kidney transplant waitlist, and every day 13 Americans die waiting for a kidney transplant. Addressing this organ shortage is of paramount importance to ASN, a goal that requires objective data and clear accountability for organ procurement organizations (OPOs), which hold a critical position on the front line of organ donation.

Your timely legislation would require standardized, objective, and verifiable metrics be established by the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to assess the performance of OPOs, which are currently evaluated using metrics based on self-reported data. ASN believes that objective and verifiable metrics are necessary for the accurate evaluation of OPOs and that utilization of such metrics could lead to an improvement in the performance of OPOs and a significant increase the availability of kidneys for transplantation.

ASN commends your efforts to establish transparency and accountability among OPOs and we stand ready to help you and your staff in any way necessary to pass this legislation and enact these important changes into law. Again, thank you for your leadership and commitment to the nearly 37 million Americans living with kidney diseases.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark Rosenberg", written in a cursive style.

Mark E. Rosenberg, MD, FASN