

CONGRESS SHOULD ENACT THE LIVING ORGAN VOLUNTEER ENGAGEMENT (LOVE) ACT

THE ISSUE:

As of 2022, there are approximately 93,000 Americans waiting for a kidney transplant, with tens of thousands more in need of a transplant but not yet on the waiting list. The average wait is 3-5 years, and 12-17 persons die each day waiting for a kidney transplant. The waiting list is growing faster than organs from deceased donors are becoming available. While more needs to be done to improve kidney recovery from deceased donors, the gap can be closed even faster if living donations increase. And, increasing donations has been documented to save the federal government significant funds.

Living kidney donation is safe, ethical, and has been effective for decades. Yet, while deceased donation has more than doubled in ten years, the number of living donations has not increased in twenty years. As of June 2022, living donation rates remain below historical averages.

Living kidney donation is not centrally organized, is not donor-centric and lacks meaningful federal support.

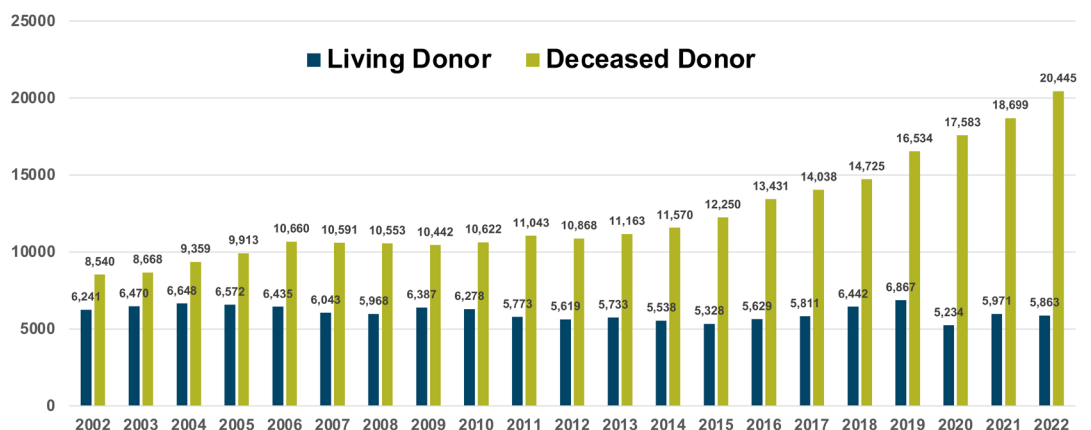
While several non-profits and dozens of transplant centers are doing impressive work, minimal federal resources are available to support individuals who volunteer to donate a kidney and save a life.

The federal government has provided extensive support for many aspects of the transplant process, funding the Organ Procurement Transplant Network to maintain the national transplant waitlist, paying for over 50 Organ Procurement Organizations to recover organs from deceased donors, and reimbursing transplant hospitals to cover the cost of transplants for Medicare and Medicaid beneficiaries. Legislation has successfully created a national bone marrow donor program managed through a contractor, "Be the Match," resulting in tens of thousands of saved lives. Yet, there is no federal program to support and coordinate living organ donations, which are a leading potential source of life-saving kidneys.

Legislation is needed to build a comprehensive national living organ donor infrastructure.

The legislation would support a national donor education program, create a donor navigator system, ensure appropriate donor cost reimbursement, collect essential data, and improve all aspects of living organ donation across the United States.

US Living and Deceased Donor Kidney Transplant Comparison



PLEASE SPONSOR THE LIVING ORGAN VOLUNTEER ENGAGEMENT (LOVE) ACT

FOR MORE INFORMATION,

please contact David Farber: DFarber@KSLAW.com, 202-626-2941.