

April 18, 2023

The Honorable Xavier Becerra
Secretary
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Avenue SW
Washington, DC 20201

Dear Secretary Becerra:

On behalf of the undersigned organizations representing kidney patients, caregivers, and health professionals, thank you for your leadership regarding the health of the 37 million Americans affected by kidney diseases, including the approximately 90,000 adults and 1,100 children on the kidney waitlist. As you are aware, transplantation is the optimal therapy for most people with kidney failure. Our nation's kidney health ecosystem has made important strides in access to kidney transplant in recent years, but additional opportunities for improvement remain.

Accordingly, our organizations welcome Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) Administrator Carole Johnson's recent announcement regarding the Organ Procurement and Transplant Network (OPTN) Modernization Initiative. We also appreciated your affirmation of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' (HHS) commitment to implementing the important aims of this initiative during your recent Congressional testimony.

Ensuring that both adult and pediatric patients are optimally served by strengthening accountability, equity, and performance in the organ donation and transplantation system through a focus on the five key areas of technology, data transparency, governance, operations, and quality improvement and innovation is a goal the undersigned organizations share with HRSA and HHS. We are grateful these objectives form the central pillars of the OPTN Modernization Initiative. Our organizations stand ready to collaborate with HRSA, HHS, Congress, and other stakeholders to inform and support the forthcoming implementation process of this vital modernization effort.

Again, thank you for your leadership. Should you have any questions or wish to discuss our organizations' support for this initiative, please contact Rachel Meyer at rmeyer@asn-online.org.

Sincerely,

The aHUS Foundation
American Kidney Fund
American Society of Pediatric Nephrology
American Society of Nephrology
Atlantic Dialysis Management Services
Dialysis Patient Citizens
Evergreen Nephrology
Federation of American Scientists
Home Dialyzors United
IgA Nephropathy Foundation
Kidney Transplant Collaborative
NephCure
Organize
Oxalosis and Hyperoxaluria Foundation

National Kidney Foundation
Nonprofit Kidney Care Alliance
Northwest Kidney Centers
PKD Foundation
Renal Healthcare Association
Renal Pathology Society
Renal Physicians Association
Renal Support Network
The Rogosin Institute
Somatus
Transplant Recipients International Organization
Waitlist Zero

CC: The Honorable Carole Johnson
The Honorable Larry Bucshon
The Honorable Bill Cassidy
The Honorable Chuck Grassley
The Honorable Robin Kelly
The Honorable Frank Pallone
The Honorable Cathy McMorris Rodgers
The Honorable Bernie Sanders
The Honorable Ron Wyden