

Support Research to Expand Access to Organ Transplants

Pass the HIV Organ Policy Equity (HOPE) Act (S. 330/H.R. 698)

Expand and encourage research:

The HOPE Act would update medically outdated bans on transplantation research.

- An amendment to the National Organ Transplant Act prevents the transplantation of organs from donors with acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS), effectively prohibiting the use of organs from human-immunodeficiency virus (HIV)-positive donors. The HOPE Act would repeal this amendment, allowing research into the use of organs from HIV-positive deceased donors.
- This prohibition made sense at the time of passage when less was known about HIV and AIDS but it is now medically out-of-date. Substantial progress has been made in the treatment of individuals living with HIV, so much so that it is now often considered a chronic, rather than an acute illness.
- Today, HIV-positive individuals have normal life expectancies. However, HIV infection does lead to increased risk for organ failure and higher mortality rates for those also on dialysis.
- There are currently **over 117,000 people on waiting lists** for organ transplants with **over 95,000 waiting for a kidney transplant**. Median wait time for a kidney transplant is around 4 years and many patients die while waiting for a suitable organ to become available for transplantation.

Increase access to organ transplants:

The HOPE Act would allow for study into the safety and effectiveness of organ transplants from HIV-positive donors, a procedure which has the potential to increase access to organ transplants for all patients.

- Any medical procedure must undergo intensive study before being accepted as a standard of care and the HOPE Act would open the door to this type of research.
- If studies find this procedure safe and effective, **the HOPE Act has the potential to increase the availability of 500 or more quality organs each year**. This would help to decrease waiting times for all patients on waiting lists.

With well over 100,000 Americans currently on rapidly growing organ transplant waiting lists, it makes sense to encourage this research. The potential of the HOPE Act to increase the supply of high-quality organs is in the best interest for the health and quality of life of all patients on waiting lists. This research must be encouraged and the HOPE Act will make it possible.

To cosponsor H.R. 698, please contact Brenna Barber (brenna.barber@mail.house.gov) in Congresswoman Capps' office.