

RESOLUTION

Subject: Support for Removing Financial Barriers to Living Organ Donation

Submitted by: Alex Thebert, Abby Durbin (University of Kentucky College of Medicine, Lexington), Margo Nelis (University of Kentucky College of Medicine, Northern Kentucky), Nic Kemper (University of Louisville School of Medicine)

Referred to: Reference Committee

WHEREAS, nearly 110,000 people are on the national organ transplant waiting list and 17 people die each day waiting for a transplant¹; and

WHEREAS, 83% of those are waiting for kidney transplants and 11% are waiting for liver transplants¹; and

WHEREAS, living organ donation is where organs are taken from a live donor and most commonly occurs with whole kidney, liver lobe, and partial lung transplants²; and

WHEREAS, of the 18,315 organ donors in 2020, roughly 3 in 10 were living donors¹; and

WHEREAS, living organ donors are estimated to take on over thousands of dollars in direct and indirect non-medical costs from organ donation due to transportation, food, lodging, and lost wages^{3,4,5}; and

WHEREAS, the National Living Donor Assistance Center (NLDAC) is funded by the federal government through grants to help low-income donors with travel expenses, however there are many other unreimbursed costs, such as lost wages, and payouts are capped at \$6000⁶; and

WHEREAS, states mainly use two methods to decrease the financial costs of living organ donation, paid leave and tax credits or deductions for unreimbursed expenses⁷; and

WHEREAS, there are 37 states with laws supporting paid leave and 22 states with laws supporting tax incentives, Kentucky currently has neither⁷; and

WHEREAS, the American Society of Transplant Surgeons and American Society of Transplantation support removing financial barriers to living organ donation^{8,9}; and

WHEREAS, the AMA supports removing financial barriers to living organ donations (H-370.965); and

WHEREAS, the KMA supports protecting organ donors from denial of insurance coverage or escalation of premiums (Res 2018-28); now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the KMA supports removing financial barriers to organ donation and making organ donation financial neutral through methods including, but not limited to, paid leave and tax credits.

References:

- ¹ Detailed Description of Data | organdonor.gov. Accessed July 8, 2021. <https://www.organdonor.gov/learn/organ-donation-statistics/detailed-description>
- ² Donate Organs While Alive | organdonor.gov. Accessed July 8, 2021. <https://www.organdonor.gov/learn/process/living-donation>
- ³ Delmonico FL, Martin D, Domínguez-Gil B, et al. Living and Deceased Organ Donation Should Be Financially Neutral Acts. *American Journal of Transplantation*. 2015;15(5):1187-1191. doi:[10.1111/ajt.13232](https://doi.org/10.1111/ajt.13232)
- ⁴ Hays R, Rodrigue JR, Cohen D, et al. Financial Neutrality for Living Organ Donors: Reasoning, Rationale, Definitions, and Implementation Strategies. *American Journal of Transplantation*. 2016;16(7):1973-1981. doi:[10.1111/ajt.13813](https://doi.org/10.1111/ajt.13813)
- ⁵ Direct and Indirect Costs Following Living Kidney Donation: Findings From the KDOC Study - Rodrigue - 2016 - American Journal of Transplantation - Wiley Online Library. Accessed July 8, 2021. <https://onlinelibrary-wiley-com.ezproxy.uky.edu/doi/10.1111/ajt.13591>
- ⁶ Warren PH, Gifford KA, Hong BA, Merion RM, Ojo AO. Development of the National Living Donor Assistance Center: reducing financial disincentives to living organ donation. *Prog Transplant*. 2014;24(1):76-81. doi:[10.7182/pit2014593](https://doi.org/10.7182/pit2014593)
- ⁷ Living_Donor_Laws_Federal_And_State_By_State.pdf. Accessed July 8, 2021. https://www.americantransplantfoundation.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/Living_Donor_Laws_Federal_And_State_By_State.pdf
- ⁸ Position Statements. Accessed July 8, 2021. <https://asts.org/about-asts/position-statements>
- ⁹ Key Position Statements. American Society of Transplantation. Published December 2, 2010. Accessed July 8, 2021. <https://www.myast.org/public-policy/key-position-statements/key-position-statements>