

Organ Donation and Recovery Improvement Act – Signed into Law

President Bush signed the Organ Donation and Recovery Improvement Act into law on April 5, 2004 (P.L. 108-216). The law represents a major step forward in the nation's efforts to help people in need of life-saving organ transplants. The law authorizes \$25 million in new resources for efforts to increase donation, including providing (1) grants for reimbursement of travel and subsistence expenses and incidental non-medical expenses incurred by individuals toward making living organ donations; (2) peer reviewed grants for studies and demonstration projects to increase organ donation and recovery rates; (3) grants to states for organ donor awareness, public education and outreach activities, and programs designed to increase the number of organ donors within the state; and (4) matching grants to qualified organ procurement organizations and hospitals to establish programs coordinating organ donation activities to increase the rate of organ donations for such hospitals.

The law also directs the Secretary, acting through the Director of the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, to: (1) develop scientific evidence supporting increased donation and improved recovery, preservation, and transportation of donated organs; and (2) support research and dissemination of findings to develop a uniform clinical vocabulary, apply technology to support organ procurement organizations, enhance the skills of the organ procurement workforce, and assess specific organ recovery, preservation, and transportation technologies.

AOPO and its members have already begun to contact legislators to ask that the appropriations be granted to implement the initiatives mentioned in the law.

The text of the legislation is available at <http://thomas.loc.gov/> to locate the legislation enter *HR 3926*.