

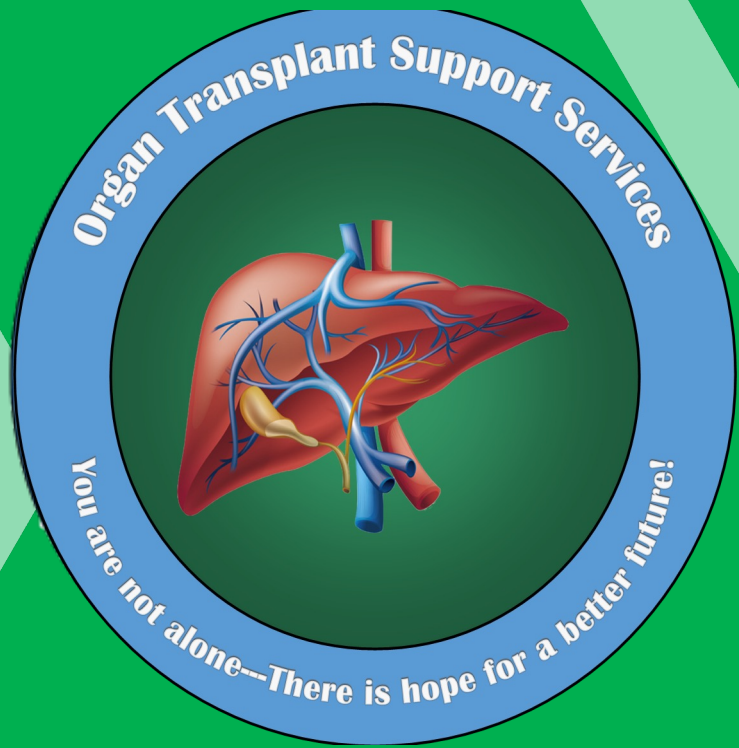
N.C.O.T.S.

Next Meeting:

Sunday, May 19<sup>th</sup>  
1 pm – 3:30



Click This  
Zoom Link to  
Join Meeting

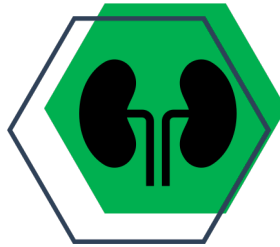


# Monthly Newsletter

## Meeting Topics:



AGENDA



THE EXPEDITIOUS TASK  
FORCE



LAWS ENACTED &  
LEGISLATION BEING  
CONSIDERED

*"It is the Courage within you that makes the difference."*

- Anon



Northern California Organ Transplant Support Group

Established 1991





- ❖ Welcome & Introductions
- ❖ Transplant Topic Discussion
- ❖ **Summer Picnic**
- ❖ SDS Ambassador Meeting
- ❖ Converting to TRIO
- ❖ Transplant Games
- ❖ Adjournment

**The American Society of Anesthesiologists** put out a Statement entitled, “Controlled Organ Donation After Circulatory Death”. That isn’t a subject to make you dash to the nearest movie theater, but it should interest anyone who has wondered about the qualitative differences in organs obtained after brain death or circulatory death. Are circulatory death organs the same quality as brain dead organs? It hasn’t been obvious. This report answers that question. I thought the article was short enough to copy, but it’s too long, though worth the read. The citation follows:

<https://www.asahq.org › standards-and-practice-parameters>

If interested check it out. The long and the short of it is this: organs from donors who died by circulatory death are on the rise. The proportion of organs transplanted following DCD continues to increase from almost 9% in 2015 to approximately 16% in 2021. There are no apparent qualitative differences. As such...DCD is “a medically effective, and ethically acceptable approach to reducing the gap that exists now and will exist in the future between the demand for and the available supply of organs for transplantation”.



“The rejection rate for this kind of organ transplant is quite high, so we’re going to cram three or four in there to better our odds.”

### 2024 Meeting Dates

January 7 <sup>th</sup>	July 14 <sup>th</sup>
February 11 <sup>th</sup>	August 11 <sup>th</sup>
March 10 <sup>th</sup>	September 8 <sup>th</sup>
April 14 <sup>th</sup>	October 6 <sup>th</sup>
May 12 <sup>th</sup>	November 10 <sup>th</sup>
June 9 <sup>th</sup>	December 8 <sup>th</sup>



## OPTN Creates the “Expeditious Task Force”

In September 2023, the Organ Procurement Transplant Network (OPTN) Board of Directors approved the creation of Expeditious: The Task Force on Organ Usage through Placement Efficiency. It was in response to the various calls by many organizations for the Nation’s organ transplant system to recognize the inefficiencies in the US organ transplant system. Too many people are dying for want of an organ and too many organs are being wasted. Senate investigators were demanding change. As the name *Expeditious* implies, quick action is called for. Yes, the United Network for Organ Sharing is breaking records every year with the number of transplants performed. They are seeing increases across all organs. In a very real sense, the US organ transplant program is the envy of the world. But 1000s of people are still dying every year for want of an organ. We still have problems putting all the pieces in place. There have been reports of OPO inefficiencies, recipient selection oversights, procedural irregularities, regional inequalities in organ distribution, organs being overlooked, others lost, some wasted. Improvements in these areas are being made, including an expedited organ placement program mentioned on page 5 of this newsletter. Other. Improvements have prompted the Expeditious Task Force to put out a goal of 60,000 transplants by 2026.



This is a hard target. Sixty thousand transplants in one year has never been done. It took UNOS until December 17, 2021 to reach the 40,000 mark for one year for the first time. Less than one year later, September 9, 2022 they achieved the 1,000,000<sup>th</sup> transplant in their 40-year history. Last year saw UNOS break 43,000 organ transplants. Getting to 60,000 in two years will not be easy, but UNOS is confident their improvements will pave the way. There are many out here that would love to see UNOS hit that mark.







## Organ Transplantation Laws Enacted and Being Considered

There are many laws on the books and some being proposed that affect organ transplantation. The ones below are not exhaustive of the total number. We will continue to list laws of interest as they are discovered and reported upon. If anyone has knowledge of other laws we should know about, please let us know so we can add to our list. Thanks- BRB @ bob\_bilyeu@yahoo.com

- **HR 4362:** Saving Organs One Flight at a Time, introduced in House on 06/23/2023. This bill requires air carriers to transport human organs for transplant above wing (i.e., in the cabin of an aircraft). Among other things, the regulations must include consideration for air control outages, a protocol for a person to accompany organs and a standardized process for commercial air carriers to accept, handle, and manage organs in transit.
- **HR 2544:** Became public law on 09-22-2023. Securing the US Organ Procurement and Transplantation Network Act – Introduced 4-10-2023; -- Allows for competition in the awarding of multiple grants, contracts, or cooperative agreements to operate the Organ Procurement and Transplantation Network.
- **HR 4343:** Amending the National Organ Transplantation Act (NOTA) - Introduced on 06-23-2023 by Doris Matsui (D) CA; Clarifies programs that honor and promote organ transplantation. Provides incentives to encourage donation, calls for reimbursing certain costs associated with organ transplantation; intended to increase organ donation - referred to Subcommittee on Health.
- **S1384 Living Donor Protection Act:** Prohibits certain insurance carriers from discriminating against living organ donors and provides other protections, allows use of FMLA time away from work to recover from organ donation, prevents insurance companies from denying or limiting coverage for organ donation or from charging higher premiums; directs HHS to encourage organ donation.
- **Public Law 116-260, Part 1; December 2020 – Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021**, calls for CMS to pay all immuno-suppressive drug medication costs for a recipient as needed due to an organ transplant. In the past such payments ended after six months

### California AB 2504

Be aware of California Assembly Bill 2504 (introduced by Ash Kalra, San Jose). This bill supports legislation proposed by S 1384, above. It is called the 'Living Organ Donor Reimbursement Act.' There are many financial reasons why people are reluctant to volunteer to be living donors. Insurance companies and organ transplant hospitals have helped ease the financial strains live organ donation imposes on live donors, but many significant expenses still must be dealt with. These costs are sizable stumbling blocks to volunteering to be a live organ donor. This bill authorizes living organ donors to apply to the department of Health Care Services for reimbursement of qualified donation expenses that were not, or will not, otherwise be reimbursed, including travel and lodging expenses, lost wages, childcare costs, copayments and deductibles for prescription and over-the-counter medications needed due to the donation. The bill would limit the total reimbursement costs awarded to each living organ donor to \$10,000 per organ donation. Despite the fact organ transplants are increasing every year for the past decade and recognizing 2022 saw UNOS organ transplants exceed the one million organ mark, there is little disagreement that too many people are dying in this country because they are not getting the organ they so desperately need. This bill is the first such law being considered in this country and is one area where we could see improving numbers quickly. perhaps our group can discuss this at our next meeting and in the future to see if we would like to show our support. At last report this Bill has been tabled in Committee, awaiting a hearing.

# Let's Stay Connected!

## 2024 Leadership Team

Role	Name	eMail
President	Jim Deyo	<a href="mailto:jdeyo@att.net">jdeyo@att.net</a>
Vice-President	Spencer Baker	<a href="mailto:Srbaker98@yahoo.com">Srbaker98@yahoo.com</a>
Secretary	TBD	
Treasurer	TBD	
Newsletter	* Bob Bilyeu	<a href="mailto:Bob_Bilyeu@yahoo.com">Bob_Bilyeu@yahoo.com</a> 916-675-2721



*Editor's Note: If you have topics you'd like us to explore in the monthly newsletter let Bob Bilyeu know.*



**Hey! Check Us Out!!!**

<https://norcaltransplantsupport.org>

### *Let us Know What you Think!*

We're excited about what the website team has created! It goes a long way toward telling our tale. Please take the time to go over what was designed by our team of volunteers:

Jan Escamilla, Eileen Chandler, Renee and David Hawkyard, Scott Thompson, Jim Deyo, Spencer Baker, Sandy and a few others.

## Important Links

- [American Liver Foundation](#)
- [Donate Life California](#)
- [Sierra Donor Services](#)
- [UNOS](#)

The latest Expeditious Task force proposal recommends:

- 1) A new variance related to expedited organ placement.
- 2) A mechanism to facilitate more rapid studies of potential improvement. The proposed variance also sets requirements for each protocol and calls for the protocols to be publicly available. The OPTN will post these protocols online so the community can comment on proposed protocols under consideration, as well as protocols approved by the OPTN Executive Committee. They are calling for comments now. To understand the permutations of these moves we need to view the task force web page on the OPTN website.



Northern California Organ Transplant Support Group Established 1991

