

The Kidney Donation Compensation and Coordination Act

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POLICY PROPOSAL

ABSTRACT: There are over 101,600 waiting list candidates for kidney transplants and yet in 2014 there were only 17,106 transplants. Of these, 11,163 came from deceased donors. As the gap between individuals looking for organ transplants and donors widens, 12 individuals die every day in the United States because there are not enough kidney donations—in 2013, this was the loss of 4,453 lives. This policy suggestions the implementation of the Spanish model of transplant coordinating units in all major transplant and trauma hospitals as well expense reimbursements for the families of cadaveric kidney donors. The Spanish mode proactively seeks organ donors and counsels the families of patients who have just died or are brain-dead. Transplant coordinators are arranged at a national, regional, and local level. At the hospital level, coordinating teams are made up of at least two medical professionals and one medical counselor. Through individualized counseling, this system will increase kidney donations thus saving the lives of those who die waiting for kidney transplants; cut health care costs by reducing the number of patients on dialysis; and cut the kidney transplant waitlist, effectively making kidneys available to more people.

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