



ANNA
American Nephrology
Nurses Association

The Organ Donation Referral Improvement Act (H.R. 330)

The American Nephrology Nurses Association (ANNA) is a nonprofit organization representing registered nurses and other healthcare professionals at all levels of practice. ANNA members work in settings such as chronic kidney disease management, peritoneal dialysis, hemodialysis, continuous renal replacement therapy, transplantation, industry, and government/regulatory agencies.

Background on the Issue

According to the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), more than 103,000 Americans are currently on the national organ transplant waiting list – a number that continues to grow, with a new person added every eight minutes. Of these, nearly 90,000 are waiting for a kidney transplant, with an estimated wait time of three to five years.

The process for notifying organ procurement organizations of potential donors relies on a cumbersome manual referral system from hospitals. This outdated method is well-documented as being time-consuming, error-prone, and burdensome – diverting valuable time away from patient care and causing critical delays that can mean the difference between life and death.

Modernizing the referral process with state-of-the-art automated software tools can eliminate delays, reduce errors, and remove barriers to timely, life-saving care. This shift has the power to save lives and modernizing the organ donation system.

Overview of the Legislation

The bipartisan *Organ Donation Referral Improvement Act* (H.R. 330) aims to make long overdue improvements to the organ donation referral process. The bill was introduced on January 9, 2025, and is led by Representatives Rob Wittman (R-VA-1), Jennifer McClellan (D-VA-4), Mariannette Miller-Meeks (R-IA-1), and Jim Costa (D-CA-21). The legislation would do the following:

- Require the Department of Health and Human Services to conduct and complete a study on hospitals' use of electronic automated referrals for organ donation, and to submit a report to Congress.
- Require the study to include specific components, including but not limited to: identifying staff time savings; evaluating the benefits of using electronic medical records and standardized clinical criteria to identify potential organ donors; reviewing best practices for electronic automated referrals and developing recommendations to promote their use; and identifying the steps necessary to support nationwide implementation of automated tools to support timely organ donation referrals .

Recommendation: ANNA supports the *Organ Donation Referral Improvement Act* (H.R. 330) and encourages Members of Congress to cosponsor the legislation.

If you have questions about these issues, please contact ANNA's Health Policy Consultant, Jim Twaddell (jtwaddell@venable.com).