

Dec. 8, 2022

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary
United States Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

United Network for Organ Sharing (UNOS) is the mission-driven non-profit serving as the nation's transplant system under contract with the federal government. We lead the network of transplant hospitals, organ procurement organizations, and thousands of volunteers who are dedicated to honoring the gifts of life entrusted to us and to making lifesaving transplants possible for patients in need.

UNOS, its Board of Directors, and the entire donation and transplant community all share a common mission: saving patients' lives by equitably and efficiently getting as many donor organs as possible to the patients who need them.

Transportation is an essential component to ensuring that many donated organs are successfully transplanted.

Reports have surfaced recently of breakdowns in the transport of organs for transplant on commercial airlines. Kidneys for transplant are the organs most impacted by these breakdowns.

Practical, logistical, and regulatory obstacles to the safe and efficient delivery of donor organs should be identified, remedied, and monitored. We believe you, the FAA, and TSA could provide valuable assistance on how to increase the efficiency of commercial air transportation of organs for transplant.

We are requesting the opportunity to meet with you, the FAA Acting Administrator, the TSA Administrator, and the Health Resources and Services Administration to discuss how we can improve the system to successfully get more organs to the patients who need them.

Sincerely,



Maureen McBride, Ph.D.
Interim Chief Executive Officer
UNOS



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