



Since 1984 — sharing organs, sharing data, sharing life.

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Walter Graham, Executive Director

Carlyle C. Ring Jr.
Chair, RUAGA Drafting Committee

National Conference of Commissioners on
Uniform State Laws
211 East Ontario Street
Suite 1300
Chicago, IL 60611

Ober, Kaler, Grimes & Shriver
1401 H. Street, NW, Suite 500
Washington, DC 20005

December 5, 2006

Dear Mr. Ring,

The United Network for Organ Sharing (UNOS) is a Virginia, non-stock, non-profit, membership corporation that is involved in a number of organ donation and transplantation initiatives. Among these initiatives, UNOS operates the Organ Procurement and Transplantation Network (OPTN) under Federal contract with the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA). The OPTN is the unified transplant network established by the National Organ Transplant Act (NOTA) of 1984 to be operated by a private, non-profit organization under federal contract. Presently, over 93,000 people are registered on the national waiting list hoping to receive a life-saving organ.

The OPTN is a unique public-private partnership that links all of the professionals involved in the organ donation and transplantation system. The primary goals of the OPTN are to increase and ensure the effectiveness, efficiency and equity of organ sharing in the national system of organ allocation and increase the supply of donated organs available for transplantation. Improvements to the organ donation consent and recovery process will have a positive and substantial impact on the number of organ transplants performed.

The Association of Organ Procurement Organizations (AOPO) sought support from UNOS and other interested organizations in 2004 to assist in the development of proposed amendments to the Uniform Anatomical Gift Act of 1987 to reflect current donation and transplantation policies and practices. The OPTN/UNOS Organ Availability Committee in conjunction with its Ethics Committee and Organ Procurement Organization (OPO) Committee provided input to the

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proposed amendments to the UAGA. In addition, UNOS staff attended the UAGA drafting Committee meetings throughout the amendment process.

On March 22, 2006, the OPTN/UNOS Board of Directors unanimously voted in support of the RUAGA which was ultimately approved by NCCUSL in July 2006.

As such, we would like this letter to serve as an endorsement from UNOS of the RUAGA 2006, and thank the commissioners for their service to improve this vital piece of model legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Walter K. Graham', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Walter K. Graham

c: Kim Johnson
Jason Livingston