

AOPO
Association of
Organ Procurement
Organizations

July 6, 2006

Carlyle C. Ring, Jr.
Chair, NCCUSL Drafting Committee
on Amending the Uniform Anatomical Gift Act
1401 H Street, NW, Suite 500
Washington, DC 20005

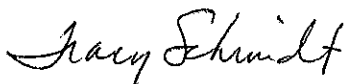
Dear Mr. Ring:

For the past three years, the Association of Organ Procurement Organizations (AOPO) has participated in NCCUSL's review and proposed revision of the Uniform Anatomical Gift Act (UAGA). The passage of an updated UAGA is of utmost importance to the organ and tissue donation community, especially those waiting on the list for life-saving transplants. The current law of 1987 has been out of step with federal law, clinical reality and best practices for many years. These discrepancies lead to confusion, cost and delays, and substantial lack of uniformity between states. It is our belief that the revision prepared by the UAGA Committee, which will be presented to the Commissioners at the Annual Meeting this week will ameliorate these problems, and quite possibly, save lives.

We are very appreciative of the willingness of the Commission to encourage the involvement of stakeholders such as AOPO, the Association of American Tissue Banks (AATB), the Eye Bank Association of America (EBAA), the National Kidney Foundation, and the United Network for Organ Sharing (UNOS), among others. This inclusion, we believe, has helped the Commission to draft a model bill that will be acceptable in all quarters.

NCCUSL has the support of AOPO for the passage of this act, as well as our intent to work with our membership to advance the act's enactment throughout the country. Thank you and your colleagues for your attention to this important measure, and for all your work as NCCUSL Commissioners.

Sincerely,



Tracy C. Schmidt
President, AOPO

Tracy C. Schmidt, Utah
President

Thomas D. Mone, California
President-Elect

Marlon F. Levy, MD, Texas
Medical Advisor

Paul W. Nelson, MD, Kansas
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