December 5, 2014

Public Comment Coordinator
United Network for Organ Sharing (UNOS)
700 North 4th Street
Richmond, VA 23218

Re: Comments on Proposed Policy Changes to Address the Requirements Outlined in the HIV Organ Policy Equity Statute (Public Law No: 113-51)

Dear UNOS Colleagues:

We, the undersigned stakeholder organizations, represent many of the groups that strongly supported passage and adoption into law of the HOPE Act statute (Public Law No: 113-51). We are writing to thank you for your efforts to advance the implementation of this life-saving law, and express our support for UNOS’ proposed changes to Organ Procurement and Transplantation Network (OPTN) regulations that will enable transplant centers to participate in studies to conduct and evaluate organ transplantation between deceased HIV-infected donors and recipients with HIV infection.

The proposed regulatory changes appear sensible and appropriate to monitor progress and address potential challenges in conducting this novel new type of transplantation. We understand that the regulations may be modified depending on the research criteria recommendations soon to be issued by the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and approved by the Secretary of Health and Human Services (HHS).

We strongly support moving forward with initiatives to expand access to organ transplants to people with HIV from deceased donors with HIV – thereby also increasing the pool of available organs for the thousands of people awaiting a life-saving transplant. Thank you for your work on this important issue and for your consideration of our views. If we can provide further information, please feel free to reach us through HIVMA Policy Officer, Kimberly Miller at (703) 740-4957 or via email at kmiller@hivma.org.

Sincerely,

AIDS Foundation of Chicago
The AIDS Institute
American Academy of HIV Medicine
American Association of Kidney Patients
American Society of Nephrology
GLMA: Health Professionals LGBT Equality
GMHC
HIV Dental Alliance
HIV Medicine Association

Lambda Legal
Log Cabin Republicans
National Center for Transgender Equality
National LGBTQ Task Force
Marriage Equality USA
PFLAG National
Transplant Recipients International Organization
Treatment Action Group