

# Transplant Times

## Organ Transplant Awareness Program November 2021



Promoting Organ Donor Awareness; Supporting the Transplant Community

### The support group will meet, Friday, November 5, 2021, from 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm at Evelyn's home please email me for directions - rioreal@earthlink.net

Greetings,

Last Friday I spoke with Albuquerque city employees at their annual health fair. Several people knew people waiting for kidney transplants. One woman was the mother of a twenty-six year old son who saved the lives of three people when he passed on. It is always heart touching to hear these stories. People are always surprised to hear that the average wait time for a kidney in New Mexico is 5 years.

Senator Ortiz y Pino and I continue to campaign for the inclusion of the Anatomical Gift on License bill (SB 251) on Governor Lujan Grisham's agenda for the 2022 Special Legislative Session. I have reached out to the National Kidney Foundation, American Liver Foundation, UNM and Presbyterian Transplant Services, University of Colorado Transplant Center, Mayo Clinic, New Mexico Donor Services, and Donate Life America and last but not least OTAP members. The sample letter and email is included in this newsletter as well as a call to action for the proposed "Liver Act".

Happy Thanksgiving!





**Transplant Recipient Anniversaries** 

Renee Roybal

Heart

October 10, 2012

No OTAP member anniversaries in November

1

The Honorable Michelle Lujan Grisham Governor of New Mexico 490 Old Santa Fe Trail, Room 400 Santa Fe, New Mexico 87501

Dear Governor Lujan Grisham,

As a grateful recipient of a liver donation, I am asking that you include the subject of Anatomical Gift options (SB 251) on your call for the 30-day session in January, 2022. SB 251, introduced by Senator Ortiz y Pino, would simply broaden the donor designation to allow those applying for recreational and professional licenses to easily assert their wishes regarding organ donation.

This legislation is necessary for the following reasons:

- Approximately 750 New Mexicans remain on the waiting list, clinging to the hope that a life-saving organ will become available. The average wait time for a kidney is 4-5 years.
- The government plays a crucial role in saving lives. Consider this: A whopping 97 percent of those who have registered their first-person authorization to be an organ donor signed up through the New Mexico Motor Vehicle Department. Can you imagine how many more could be donors if the avenues for registration were expanded?
- The segment of the population most affected are minorities who comprise 74 percent waitlist. The financial and psychological burdens are too great to ignore.

SB 251 would add an organ donor registration option on all professional and recreational license applications and renewals. In 2019, Iowa adopted "Logan's Law" "that allowed registration on hunting/fishing licenses." In the first year, almost 3,000 new donors were added.

Families of New Mexico will be grateful to count on your support once again. Please request that this vital issue be considered in the upcoming Special Legislative Session.

Sincerely,

Evelyn J Rivera

The Honorable Michelle Lujan Grisham Governor of New Mexico 490 Old Santa Fe Trail, Room 400 Santa Fe, New Mexico 87501

\*\*\* or send an email by going to: www.governor.state.nm.us)

\*\*\* or call and leave message with staff 505-476-2200

Dear Governor Lujan Grisham,

As a grateful recipient of a liver donation (**replace with your connection to the cause, in other words tell your story.** "I am asking you to include the subject of Anatomical Gift options (SB 251) on your call for the 30-day session in January, 2022." ( **must include**)

Add a paragraph elaborating on why this is important.

Sincerely,

#### Call to Action:

Please email our congressional members and ask that they co-sponsor the following legislation.

The Liver Illness Visibility, Education and Research (LIVER) Act of 2019 (HR 3016)

Introduced on May 23, 2019 by Representative Nydia Velazquez (D-NY), the bill takes bold steps to increase investments in research, prevention, and awareness activities to address liver disease and liver cancer, which continues to grow in incidence and is the 2nd deadliest cancer.

#### The LIVER Act will:

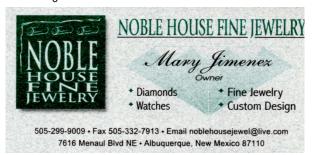
- Authorize an additional \$45 million a year for 5 years for liver cancer and hepatitis B research at the National Institutes of Health (NIH)
- Raise the profile of liver disease at the NIH by adding Liver to the name of the National
  Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases (NIDDK) to make it the National
  Institute of Diabetes, Digestive, Kidney and Liver Diseases
- Elevate the Liver Branch at NIDDK to a Division and require that the new Liver Division report directly to the Institute Director
- Direct the National Cancer Institute (NCI) to issue targeted calls for proposals, including a call for a new liver Specialized Program of Research Excellence for primary liver cancer, and have those proposals reviewed by a new Special Emphasis Panel
- Direct NIH to establish an inter-institute working group to coordinate hepatitis B and liver cancer research.
- Authorize an additional \$90 million a year for 5 years for prevention and awareness grants at the CDC, including grants for screening, vaccination, and treatment for liver cancer, hepatitis B, hepatitis C, nonalcoholic fatty liver disease, and cirrhosis of the liver.



### 2022 ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP FORM

Name			
Address			
City	State	Zip Code	
Phone #	Cell Phone		
Email address for organization communication	ns only	<del>-</del>	
I would prefer to receive the ne	wsletter electroni	cally.	
\$15 Individual membership	\$25 Family me	embershipdona	tioı
All contributions are tax deductible			
Please make checks payable and mail to:	OTAP,		
	PO Box 37217		
	Albuquerque, N	M 87176	
Candidate: Organ/Tissue Type:	Date List	ted/	
<b>Recipient:</b> Organ/Tissue Type:	Date Rece	eived//	
2 <sup>nd</sup> transplant date –month day year:	ll		
Donor/member of a Donor Family: Name		Organ/Tissue Type	
Recipient	Transplant date –mor	nth/day/year://	
Friend of OTAP			
Opportunities - Please check all that apply:			
I would like to volunteer: promotional events	fundraising e	vents	
Personal information such as phone number			
I am interested in working with the scholarship tea			
I only want to receive the monthly newsletter.		• •	
Suggestions			

Thank You for your support!





#### **AMAZON SMILE**

Sign in to Amazon Smile and select Organ Transplant Awareness Program of New Mexico.

Amazon will make a donation to OTAP quarterly.

Or copy and paste this address to your browser:

Amazon Smile: https://smile.amazon.com/ch/04-3654972

#### **OTAP Mission Statement**

The mission of Organ Transplant Awareness Program is to promote organ donation and support transplant community members including transplant candidates, donor families, living organ donors, transplant recipients, and transplant families. We promote organ donation by participating in a variety of community events. Our support group meets once a month for those who need support or are seeking information about the transplant process.





