

08, March, 2017

Shri JP Nadda
Hon'ble Health Minister
Government of India
New Delhi

Sub: Streamlining and Strengthening of Provisions to Encourage Organ Donations

Dear Sir,

We write this to bring to your kind attention the need to streamline and strengthen provisions to encourage organ donations in India.

On behalf of the medical fraternity we note with great concern that out of an estimated 2 lakh patients who needs dialysis and transplants every year, only about 10,000 patients are able to get dialysis and only 6,000 patients are lucky to get a transplant done. Due to lack of awareness on organ donation, superstitions, personal bias and inhibitions, we end up losing approximately 2 lakh kidneys and other vital organs which could otherwise save many lives.

We write this to kindly appeal to you to look into the possibility of streamlining and strengthening provisions to encourage organ donation in the country, using unconventional ways. It is requested that the government may consider formulating a policy on organ donation to ensure that all people could become donors on their death unless they join an official register to Opt Out. We request the government to formulate advisory bodies with representations from social activists, social scientists, doctors and thought leaders to deliberate upon the possibility of introducing the Opt Out system.

Unless the person or family had previously expressed a clear wish for or against donation, hospitals should be authorized to harvest the organs. Relevant authorities should also make it easier to get required permissions and complete procedures in quick time so that vital organs are not wasted. The Opt Out system, if implemented, can resolve organ donor shortage in the country to some extent and ease the burden of number of deaths happening because of lack of organs.

Not only this, we also feel and humbly submit that it is time to move from Donors after Brain Dead (DBD) to Donors after Circulatory Death (DCD). We appeal in earnest to make centralized registry system for both DBD and DCD Organ Harvests. Nation Organ & Tissue Transplant Organization (NOTTO) is doing good work and should expedite its mission of training doctors in different parts of the country for harvesting of organs. It should also train and encourage the hospital professionals to start working on DCD organ.

Lack of awareness, religious, social and other related issues have been detrimental to the improvement of the organ transplant scenario in India. In order to encourage people to come forward and donate organs, we also urge the government to aid the donor's family with medical insurance and job opportunities and other such provisions that may keep their motivation intact. We should work towards making organ donation a norm than an exception.

Warm regards



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Copy to

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