



Dear Organ Donation Champions:

In June 2011, my colleagues at the Health Resources and Services Administration launched the Workplace Partnership for Life Hospital Campaign, an initiative focused on involving our nation's hospitals and state hospital associations in increasing the number of registered organ, eye, and tissue donors among their employees and communities. The campaign was intended to run through May 2012, but is now embarking on its third year thanks to the enthusiasm and hard work of more than a thousand participating partners throughout the country. This third phase will run through May 2014 and will encourage more hospitals, hospital associations, organ procurement organizations, eye and tissue banks, and local Donate Life America affiliates to enroll and take part in the effort to promote donor registration.

Transplantation is a modern medical success story. Each year, organs donated by deceased and living donors save the lives of more than 28,000 people. Thousands more lives are enhanced by donated corneas and other tissues. Unfortunately, however, the national organ waiting list, currently more than 120,000, so greatly exceeds the number of organ donors that about 7,000 of those waiting for organs die each year because an organ was not available in time.

This Hospital Campaign is a laudable national effort to help make transplantation available to all who need it by increasing the number of registered donors in this country. To date, campaign participants have stimulated more than 221,000 new enrollments in state donor registries. As the campaign continues, I believe that the current partners will stimulate even more registry enrollments. It is my hope that even more hospitals, state hospital associations, and donation-related organizations will join this important life-saving and enhancing effort, because each new person who enrolls in his or her state donor registry brings hope to all those waiting.

It is also our hope that with this campaign, promoting donor registry enrollment will become an integral part of the culture of hospitals in this country, and together we will save more lives through donation and transplantation. I encourage your support, or continued support, of this important program.

Thank you for joining us in working to improve the health of our nation.

Sincerely yours,

Howard K. Koh, M.D., M.P.H.
Assistant Secretary for Health