

# Contact Members of Congress to Improve Organ Transportation



## Issue

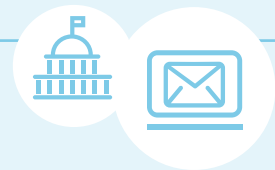
Before the September 11 attacks, organs, primarily kidneys, were transported above wing under the watchful eye of the aircrew. The attacks prompted protocol changes at airports, and organs now must be transported as cargo. With advances in travel and preservation techniques, our nation's donation and transplant system is increasingly reliant on commercial airline cargo processes that were not designed to handle this lifesaving gift. Though year-over-year records in organ transplants demonstrate that the vast majority of cases arrive safely at the transplant center, still some experience cargo handling-related issues. Delays due to cargo processes, failures to load on initial or connecting flights, and misdirected shipments are potentially avoidable. Congressional support in developing security protocols to enable couriers and organ procurement organizations (OPOs) to deliver donor organs directly to an aircraft, returning to in cabin transport, can improve organ transportation to benefit transplant candidates and better honor the gift of life. A [UNOS issue brief](#) provides additional information.

## Status

Congress extended the current Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) authorization through March 8. This extension provides Congress with an opportunity to complete its work on FAA reauthorization legislation. The [House \(Section 834\)](#) and [Senate \(Section 737\)](#) bill each include an organ transportation provision. Stakeholder [organizations](#) urge that any final FAA reauthorization legislation includes a provision that requires federal rulemaking to enable the transportation of a donated organ in the passenger cabin instead of in the cargo hold of a commercial airplane.

## How you can help

Contacting your Members of Congress ensures they understand the challenge of transporting organs in the cargo of an airplane and build support for enabling organs to be transported in the cabin of an airplane.



### Contacting Your Members of Congress

- Identify your Members of Congress

#### House Representative

- Visit [www.house.gov](http://www.house.gov)
- Use the "Find Your Representative" look up tool
- Click the envelope icon below your Representative's picture to access their webpage to submit a message

#### Senators

- Visit [www.senate.gov](http://www.senate.gov)
- Select "Contact" from the "Senators" pull down menu
- Select your state of residence from the pull down menu
- Click "Contact" under each Senator's picture to access their webpage to submit a message

## Message to Congress

Dear [Representative or Senator],\*

I am a constituent and an organ donation and transplant advocate. (Share your personal story, if you are comfortable.)\*

Both the House and Senate Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) reauthorization bills include a provision that would improve the efficiency of organ transportation and mitigate risks of lifesaving organs being delayed or lost when being transported by commercial air. I hope that you will ensure that any final FAA reauthorization legislation includes a provision that requires federal rulemaking to enable the transportation of a donated organ in the passenger cabin instead of in the cargo hold of a commercial airplane.

As a side effect of post-9/11 security changes, donated organs intended for transplant have been relegated to being transported in cargo rather than in the cabin of an airplane. Transporting lifesaving organs is time-sensitive, and cargo was not designed to meet the needs of a 24/7 organ donation and transplant system. Ensuring that federal protocols are modernized to reduce the risk of damage or delay of donor organs will benefit transplant candidates and honor the lifesaving gifts of organ donors.

Thank you for considering this request.

\* Highlighted text needs to be completed by the person sending the email message.