

**UNOS Support
OPTN Modernization
H.R.2544 - The Securing the U.S. OPTN Act of 2023 (*Public Law No: 118-14*)**

MOST RECENT UNOS SUPPORT FOR OPTN MODERNIZATION

- **July 22, 2025** –U.S. House Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations: UNOS CEO Testimony [HHRG-119-IF02-Wstate-McBrideM-20250722.pdf](#)

“UNOS supports the OPTN Modernization Initiative and increasing competition because we agree the system can be strengthened...I am committed to collaborating with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, HRSA, CMS, Congress and other stakeholders to continue to support the OPTN Modernization Initiative.”

Ensuring OPTN and UNOS Board Independence

- **January 10, 2023** - UNOS sent a [letter to HRSA Administrator](#) Carole Johnson, advocating for a contract modification that would allow UNOS to submit a roadmap detailing concrete steps to advance board independence. UNOS first requested HRSA engagement in May 2021 to create an independent OPTN Board.
- **August 2, 2023** - UNOS [announces](#) a roadmap that outlines how to create an independent OPTN Board.
- **September 22, 2023** – Securing the OPTN Act of 2023 becomes law.
- **December 5, 2023** - UNOS Board of Directors votes to establish its own governance structure unique from the OPTN Board of Directors.
- **February 23, 2024** - New UNOS Board members are ratified. UNOS statement [here](#).
- **March 12, 2024** - [UNOS welcomes new seven-member board of directors | UNOS](#) (link includes actions for the full board separation timeline)

Increasing Appropriations for HRSA’s OPTN Modernization Initiative

- **March 11, 2024** - [UNOS applauds president’s FY2025 budget request | UNOS](#)
- **April 17, 2024** - UNOS [Statement for the Record](#) for the U.S. House Energy and Commerce Committee hearing on the FY25 HHS budget in support of the OPTN Modernization
- **April 26, 2024** - UNOS led [stakeholder letter](#) to Appropriators to support OPTN Modernization
- **August 2, 2024** - [UNOS applauds U.S. Senate Appropriations Committee for increasing funding for the OPTN Modernization Initiative | UNOS](#)

The Securing the U.S. OPTN Act of 2023:

September 22, 2023- Upon passage of HR2544, UNOS’ [official statement](#):

“Today, President Biden signed the Securing the U.S. Organ Procurement and Transplantation Network Act into law. We do not oppose this legislation, and we welcome Congress’ collaborative interest in reforming the nation’s organ donation and transplantation system. UNOS supports a

more competitive and open bidding process for the next Organ Procurement and Transplantation Network (OPTN) contracts, a centerpiece of this legislation.

As HRSA pursues additional efforts to modernize the OPTN, UNOS continues to offer its expertise and experience to support our shared goals of increasing accountability, transparency, performance and oversight. We are committed to working with HRSA, Congress, the wider donation and transplantation community and other stakeholders to ensure the best possible system for patients, donors and their families.

No organization knows the incredibly complex system and the transplant community as well as UNOS. As this law goes into effect, we look forward to taking part in the new bidding process and demonstrating how our expertise should remain an integral part of this system.”

Background of OPTN Contracts

HRSA, not UNOS, structures the OPTN contract and the bid process. HRSA issued requests for proposals for a single organization to operate the OPTN in 1986, 1987, 1990, 1993, 1996, 2000, 2005, and 2018. UNOS submitted a bid proposal at each opportunity to compete and was awarded the OPTN contract by HRSA each time. Use of the term “monopoly” to describe UNOS’ historical position as the sole OPTN contractor suggests that there is (or should be) a “market” for organ donation and transplant in America – a position with which UNOS strongly disagrees. Further, it suggests that there was no opportunity for other organizations to compete for the contract, which is false.

GAO Report

The Securing the U.S. OPTN Act of 2023 required the GAO to review the historical financing of the OPTN, including the contractor’s utilization of registration fees. The report is not yet released. UNOS cooperated fully with the GAO in their review.

Before HRSA started to collect the OPTN Registration Fee in [FY2026](#), UNOS collected the OPTN Registration Fee as required by HRSA in accordance with UNOS’ contract with HRSA for OPTN operations support.

UNOS supports HRSA directly collecting the OPTN Registration Fee and has no position on whether Congress should grant HRSA’s authority with a sunset or permanently.