



## H.R. 6469 – Stephanie Tubbs Jones Organ Transplant Act

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### FLOOR SITUATION

H.R. 6469 is being considered on the floor under suspension of the rules and will require a two-thirds majority vote for passage. This legislation was introduced by Representative Diana DeGette (D-CO) on July 10, 2008. The resolution was ordered reported, as amended, by voice vote from the Committee on Energy and Commerce on September 17, 2008.

H.R. 6469 is expected to be considered on the floor of the House on September 23, 2008.

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### SUMMARY

H.R. 6469 increases the annual authorization level for the Organ Procurement and Transplantation Network (OPTN) to \$7 million.

*\*Note: Currently, the OPTN is authorized at \$2 million. This authorization level was established upon the enactment of the National Organ Transplant Act of 1984.*

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### BACKGROUND

The Organ Procurement and Transplantation Network (OPTN) was established by Congress under the National Organ Transplant Act (NOTA) of 1984. The OPTN is a private, non-profit organization that operates under a federal contract. Its goals are to increase the effectiveness and efficiency of organ sharing and equity in the national system of organ allocation and to increase the supply of donated organs available for transplantation.

OPTN is responsible for facilitating the organ matching and placement process through the use of a computer system and a fully staffed center that operates 24 hours a day. It develops consensus based policies and procedures for organ recovery, allocation, and transportation and collects and manages scientific data about organ donation and transplantation. In 1999, the OPTN developed the secure Web-based computer system that maintains the United States organ transplant waiting list.

The United Network for Organ Sharing is under contract with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to operate the OPTN and is based in Richmond, VA.

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### COST

The Congressional Budget Office has not issued a cost estimate for H.R. 6469.

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### STAFF CONTACT

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