



April 15, 2019

The Honorable Senfronia Thompson
Chair, House Public Health Committee
Room 3S.6
P.O. Box 2910
Austin, TX 78768

Dear Madame Chair Thompson:

The Texas Chapter of the American College of Physicians Services (TXACPS), is a state chapter representing internal medicine physician specialists who apply scientific knowledge and clinical expertise to the diagnosis, treatment, and compassionate care of adults across the spectrum from health to complex illness. We represent more than 8,000 members in the state of Texas.

The Texas Chapter of the American College of Physicians Services joins the American College of Cardiology in support of HB 3874. Their letter poignantly addresses the transplant crisis and lack of organs available for recipients in the United States and in the state of Texas.

Kidney transplantation is one of the most successful organ transplant procedures performed in this country. In 2016, there were 124,675 new cases of end-stage renal disease in this country. Of note, Network 18 of the United States Renal Data System which encompasses the state of Texas had the highest number of new cases of end-stage renal disease in the United States.

Only 57% of those patients started on dialysis will be alive in 3 years. A patient receiving a kidney transplant lives almost 3 times as long as a dialysis patient. In 2016, the adjusted mortality rates for end-stage renal disease, dialysis, and transplant patients were 134, 164, and 29 per 1000 patient years, respectively.

19,613 kidney transplants (14,077 from deceased donors) were performed in 2017 from a waiting list of 92,685 patients. Although the number of patients awaiting heart, lung, or liver transplantation is smaller than those awaiting kidney transplantation, no life maintaining procedure such as dialysis is available and they succumb to their illness unless transplanted.

The literature and experiencing in Europe supports the presumed consent organ donation bill.

The Board of Directors of the Texas Chapter of the American College of Physicians Services is proud to support HB 3874.

Respectfully,

Curtis Mirkes, DO, FACP
President, Texas Chapter of the American College
of Physicians Services

Steven Hays, MD, FACP
Past-President, Texas Chapter of the American
College of Physicians Services