End Organ Donor Shortage with Presumed Consent
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ACTION: Support legislation that expands organ donation by presumed consent while maintaining freedom to “opt-out.”

Background
- People are dying: 19 Americans die every day while awaiting an organ transplant; over 100,000 Americans are currently awaiting organ transplant, 10,000 in New York
- According to a Gallup poll, the majority of Americans (94.5%) support organ donation. However, only 38% of licensed drivers are registered to be donors,\(^1\) lowest rates in New York (11.1%).\(^2\)
- Presumed Consent Organ Donation succeeds in other countries (Spain, Belgium, Norway) and is the recommended model for Organ Donation by the World Health Organization.
- Dialysis costs $77,000 per year for each patient awaiting kidney transplant.\(^3\) 90,000 Americans await kidney transplant, 60,000 waiting more than 1 year.\(^4\)

Our Experience
- Each one of us has witnessed patients needlessly suffer and die while waiting for a transplant.
- Working with a very diverse patient population, we have seen how this issue affects people from all backgrounds.
- Patients awaiting transplant are among the sickest and add greatly to health care costs, in addition to decreased productivity/well-being for patients and families.

Addressing the Opposition
- The misinformed will likely be the major opponents. No freedom is being taken away - everyone has the option to opt-out.
- A broad-based multilingual educational initiative with multiple avenues for opting-out would be required to prevent discrimination against those with decreased access.
- Potential donors fear that care will be compromised during life due to a conflict of interest. However, this is an issue of misinformation and not a reality, and can be addressed with the educational initiative.

Advantages
- Decrease overall costs, increase quality of life.
- Activate the apathetic, make it their responsibility to opt-out.

Conclusion: Support presumed consent for organ donation to prevent unnecessary death and suffering through increasing awareness and expanding the availability of donor organs.

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\(^1\) data from 2005 National Survey of Organ and Tissue Donation Attitudes and Behaviors, 51.4% stated they would be “very likely” to donate their organs, 26.8% “somewhat likely” totaling 78.2%.
\(^2\) Donate Life America, 2009
\(^3\) U.S. Renal Data System, 2008
\(^4\) U.S. Health and Human Services, 2009