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Susan G. Queen, PhD  
HRSA Reports Clearance Officer  
Room 10-33  
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Rockville, MD 20857

Dear Dr. Queen:

I am responding, on behalf of the National Kidney Foundation (NKF), to the Comment Request published in the *Federal Register* on March 7, 2007, concerning Information Collection Activities of the Organ Procurement and Transplant Network (OPTN) pursuant to its contract with HRSA. The National Kidney Foundation's membership includes 7,375 transplant recipients who belong to the NKF transAction Council, 27,817 members of the NKF Patient and Family Council, and the 7,375 members of the NKF National Donor Family Council who have donated the organs of a loved one for transplantation, as well as 1,223 members who are themselves living donors.

The OPTN Board approved a reduction in collection of follow-up data that track outcomes of patients who have received a solid organ transplant during its meetings on June 29, 2006, and March 23, 2007. In the opinion of the National Kidney Foundation, these reduced data points fail to meet important public health surveillance needs for this vulnerable population. The elements provide minimal information in the first year after the transplant and provide inadequate information on complications and access to care. We believe that additional data collection should be required and have provided our data collection recommendations to the OPTN. These follow-up data are needed to monitor compliance with OPTN rules and requirements and to develop and evaluate organ allocation policy. The latter is especially significant in view of the new allocation schema for deceased-donor kidneys that OPTN is currently considering. In addition, information about the performance of specific transplant centers that are members of the OPTN is essential so that consumers can make informed decisions about treatment options. This is entirely consistent with the Department of Health and Human Service's Value-Driven Health Care initiative. Finally, these data are needed to