



VIA EMAIL

January 27, 2026

Senator Susan Collins, Chair  
Senate Committee on Appropriations  
413 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Senator Patty Murray, Vice Chair  
Senate Committee on Appropriations  
154 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

**RE: Appropriations Bill – H.R. 7148**  
**Potential Organ Donors – Remote Access to Medical Records**

Dear Chair Collins & Vice Chair Murray:

We write to request an amendment to Appropriations [Bill H.R. 7148](#), which was referred to the Senate yesterday and read twice. A provision of this Bill encourages **remote access to the electronic medical records of potential organ donors** – without patient consent. It promotes deeper integration of hospital electronic health record systems with organ procurement organizations (OPOs). Specifically, Section 372 of the Public Health Service Act is amended to encourage:

- integration of electronic health record systems through application programming interfaces (API) among hospitals, OPOs, and transplant centers;
- automated electronic hospital referrals; and
- remote, electronic access to hospital electronic health records of potential donors by organ procurement organizations. (H.R. 7148, p. 924, line 22 – p. 925, line 10).

These provisions encourage OPOs to become unseen watchers at the bedsides of potential donors. Given that HIPAA is a disclosure rule, not a privacy rule, the requirement that access to electronic health records must comply with HIPAA provides no comfort. This amendment may unnecessarily increase institutional focus on organ retrieval rather than patient privacy and family autonomy. Further, the language could intensify pressure on families during end-of-life situations by **automating electronic identification and referral of potential donors**, eliminating a discussion between patients, families, nurses, and doctors about whether to notify an organ procurement organization.

As a practical matter, when the health care system is built to flag patients, transmit records electronically, and allow self-interested corporations to track the progress of patients who may die, patient and family interests may become secondary. Contrary to the language in the Bill, families deserve privacy and control when loved ones are hospitalized and facing the possibility of death. **For these reasons, CCHF requests that you remove this language from the appropriations bill.**

Sincerely,

  
Twila Brase, RN, PHN  
President and Co-founder