

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

June 5, 2013

The Honorable Kathleen Sebelius
Secretary
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20201

Dear Secretary Sebelius:

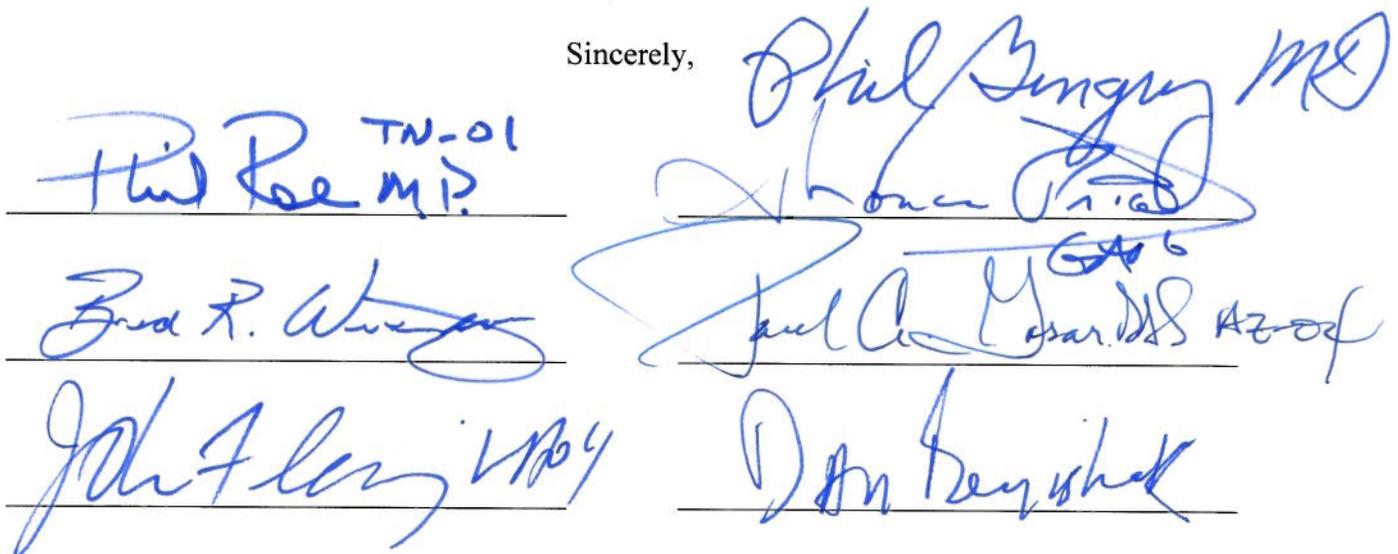
As members of the House GOP Doctor's Caucus, we are writing as both medical professionals and lawmakers to urge you to address current organ allocation policies that are preventing 10-year-old Sarah Murnaghan from a fair chance to receive a lung transplant.

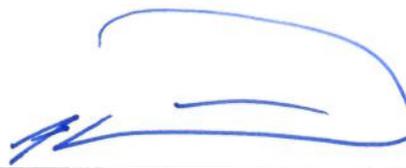
We appreciate your request that the Organ Procurement and Transplantation Network (OPTN)—established by federal law and administered through the Department of Health and Human Services—review its policies surrounding lung allocation, particularly those regarding age categories that limit access for children who are priority and medically-qualified candidates. We believe that this policy review must be transparent, deliberative, and science-based. We also recognize, however, that such a review cannot be completed in time to help Sarah and other children like her.

That is why we urge you to exercise your existing authority pursuant to Section 121.4(d) of the OPTN regulations to suspend policies under review where there is "risk to the health of patients or public safety." We believe the current OPTN age policies are discriminatory and as physicians they pose a risk to health and safety of children like Sarah.

As physicians with decades of collective experience practicing medicine as well as legislators, we believe that while OPTN reviews the lung allocation policies, we owe it to Sarah and all children in her condition to ensure she has every chance at life.

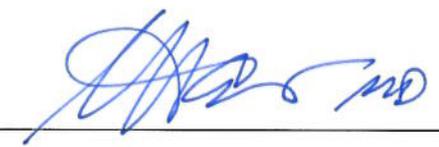
Sincerely,


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GA 10

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