

## Statement by LiveOnNY

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New York, NY (January 29, 2021) -- Organ transplantation is a miracle of modern medicine, saving tens of thousands of lives in the United States each year. But today, more than 100,000 potential recipients are on waiting lists for transplantable organs, and many of them will die before an organ becomes available to them. Even those numbers understate the severity of the problem, since people of color are more likely to suffer from the diseases leading to organ failure, and less likely to receive transplants than white patients.

Improving the management of organ donation, and insuring equity throughout the transplantation process, should thus be a national priority. LiveOnNY, the federally-designated Organ Procurement Organization for the greater New York area, is completely committed to those goals. In that regard, LiveOn strongly supports the recently-adopted Final Rule for Organ Procurement Organizations, and especially applauds its contribution to more reliable and accurate measurement of OPO performance, stronger oversight of OPOs, and insistence on meeting higher standards for continued OPO certification. The Preamble to the Final Rule suggests that it may save as many as 7,000 additional lives a year; we believe that is a conservative estimate, and expect to contribute to exceeding it.

We also strongly endorse the potential of the Final Rule to reduce inequity in organ procurement and allocation. To that end, LiveOn has committed to a plan of action to address our own shortcomings in this area while working with our hospital and community partners on a broader attack on the problem. We applaud the Executive Order on Advancing Racial Equity issued by the new Administration on January 20.

Every region of the country deserves to be served by a high-performing OPO. We are committed to using the best and most innovative available tools for making that happen, and to be held accountable for the extent to which we do.



Lee H. Perlman

Chair, LiveOnNY Board of Directors