



**Kentucky Organ Donor Affiliates**  
Statement – September 14, 2024

We want to reassure our community members and donation partners that our organization, Kentucky Organ Donor Affiliates (KODA), prioritizes the care of our donors and their families while strictly adhering to all applicable laws, including national guidelines set by regulatory bodies such as the Organ Procurement and Transplantation Network (OPTN) and the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS).

Our number one priority is patient safety. We have procedures in place, outlined by policies from the OPTN and CMS, that strictly determine when organ donation is acceptable and steps to adhere to if the family withdraws life-sustaining medical treatment for their loved one.

Importantly, testimony recently provided to the House Committee on Energy and Commerce, as well as information subsequently published detailing an interview with a former KODA employee, inaccurately represented a case in which a potential donor was referred to KODA in 2021. Notably, the former employee was not present in the hospital or ever assigned to this case. Moreover, she improperly accessed and shared files from the protected patient health information held by our organization.

In order for Donation after Circulatory Death (DCD) organ donation to occur, approved hospital and KODA protocols must be followed, and at any time, if a patient's condition improves or they do not experience cardiac arrest within an established period of time for donation, the family is informed that the donation cannot take place, and the patient remains under the care of the hospital. This is exactly what occurred in the case at issue.

While we cannot discuss all of the specifics of this case, we can share that the comments made misrepresent what occurred. KODA is committed to maintaining best practices in patient safety, and that includes encouraging prompt reporting of any and all concerns so that immediate steps can be taken to review and, if necessary, improve practices moving forward. KODA did not learn about these alleged concerns until they were discussed during the Congressional hearing. On review of this case, we are confident that relevant potential DCD donor protocols were followed.

KODA also routinely reviews our internal practices for DCD donation and remains committed to our mission of saving lives through donation while respecting and caring for donors and their families, as well as prioritizing patient safety. We stand firm in our dedication to transparency throughout the donation process, to patient safety, and to the highest standards of practice. These are essential to maintaining public trust and ensuring the efficacy of the organ donation system. We greatly value our relationship with our hospital partners, without whose support, organ donation and transplantation would not be possible.