
**Content**

“USA confronts looming organ-shortage crisis” by Todd Zwillich reporter for the International Journal of Medical Science and Practice, confronts the issue of organ shortage in America, and explains what some of our options are to alleviate this deadly problem. Zwillich says that people in the medical and political arenas are calling for drastic reform of our policies and laws to save the lives of those waiting for an organ transplant. Zwillich states that “more than 92,400 Americans are on the waiting list for organ transplants, and less than 14,500 individuals donated last year.” The list is growing for numerous reasons but two big reasons are because of the rise of diabetic patients and people are living longer. A professor from George Town University, Robert Veatch, is trying to change the laws so people who are in a permanent vegetative state or in a coma for many years are declared legally dead and therefore can be considered for organ donation. He also wants to see people who are normally banned, gay men, drug users and other high risk people be allowed to donate. These organs would only be used in terminal situations, where the choice would then be life or disease. Veatch also believes we should consider experimenting with cash payments for human organs, this is not without huge controversy with the United Network for Organ Sharing (UNOS) opposing this position. He believes that the shortage is now a extremely desperate situation which warrants desperate and maybe even what some would consider
unethical measures. Zwillich also noted that patients are now taking their lives into their own hands and trying to find a donor match on-line on websites such as matching donors.com.

**Reaction**

I chose this article because it seemed to go in the direction that I feel my paper needs to mostly focus on which is, our options for organ donation. This article was helpful in stating what the option was and what a supporter in the field is basing his beliefs on. It also addressed the opposing argument and by whom. I wondered why the list is ever growing, which Zwillich addressed briefly, but I need more information why the list growing so rapidly. Is it because Americans are not taking care of themselves? Obesity? Is this an environmental issue? Birthdefects?

The author talked about “America’s system of altruistic donations is a failure” (Zwillich). Altruistic means unselfish interest in the welfare of others.

Did not talk much about the option of xenotransplantation which is using animal organs in humans so I need a good source on that topic. As well as the opt-out / presumed consent. The author mentioned very briefly that Public Awareness is a vital key to help end this shortage and this is the first time I had read this. Why hasn’t a movie star taken this on as a platform??

**Quotes**

“Statistics now suggest America’s increasing diabetes rate and ageing population could double demand for kidney donations in the next 10 years. Improved surgical techniques will increase demand for other organs too” (Zwillich). This is in my working out line

“Robert Veatch, a professor of medical ethics at Georgetown University in Washington,
DC, is among those calling on the USA to abandon many of the rules now governing organ procurement. He has gone as far as to recommend altering the legal definition of death so that more donors qualify” (Zwillich). “The Institute of Medicine (IOM) was far from alone in its opposition to cash payments for organs” (Zwillich).

“The United Network of Organ Sharing (UNOS) President Francis Delmonico pledged that his organization would vehemently fight any move to enshrine an organ market into law. That [waiting] list is growing because of inadequate medical care and it’s not just solvable by buying organs” (Zwillich). This is in my working outline

“Daniel Foster is an internist at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center in Dallas and a member of the President’s Council. He warned that kidney failure patients in the city now wait an average of 5 years before finding a donor. “I think we’ve got to do something radical about it” (Zwillich). I need to use this some where in my paper