



# Philippine Society of Nephrology, Inc.

a component society of the Philippine College of Physicians  
a sub-specialty society of the Philippine Medical Association  
an affiliate society of the International Society of Nephrology

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Immediate Past President

## VISION STATEMENT

The Philippine Society of Nephrology, Inc. is a cohesive body that ensures adherence to the highest standards of excellence in training and research in the field of Nephrology. It commits itself to train, regulate, and support its members to enable them to be globally competitive, ethical, excellent, and compassionate.

It is a dynamic partner of Medical and Professional Societies, and a foremost source of knowledge and information. The PSN, Inc. serves as liaison between its members and various support and regulatory institutions.

The society is committed to the highest quality care for patients as it leads renal related public health programs especially those that are relevant to the Filipino people.

## MISSION STATEMENT

The Philippine Society of Nephrology, Inc. promotes and disseminates current knowledge and information in Nephrology. It provides guidelines in the delivery of nephrologic care, and ensures the strict implementation of these guidelines. Through accreditation, it enforces global training and research standards.

The society provides information on members' needs and problems, as well as expertise and recommendations for policy formulation regarding renal disease. It shall initiate, recommend, promote, and coordinate public health programs geared towards awareness, prevention, and treatment of renal disease.

## POSITION STATEMENT OF THE PHILIPPINE SOCIETY OF NEPHROLOGY ON House Bills Numbered 254, 255 (Rep. Harry Roque), 291 (Rep. Harlin Neil J. Abayon), 608 (Rep. Sandra Y. Eriguel), 882 (Rep. Benhur B. Lopez, Jr.) 1335 (Rep. Scott Davies S. Lanete) 1414 (Rep. Ron P. Salo) and 2326 (Rep. Rene L. Relampagos) WITH THE INTENT TO PROMOTE ORGAN DONATION AND TRANSPLANTATION

February 28, 2018

The Philippine Society of Nephrology would like to thank the Committee on Health of the House of Representatives, headed by the Honorable Angelina Tan, MD, for this opportunity to share our inputs regarding the house bills under deliberation, all of which aim to promote organ donation and transplantation among Filipinos. Believing as we do that the treatment of choice for end stage renal disease is kidney transplantation, we welcome any effort that will help more of our countrymen avail of this life saving and quality of life enhancing treatment option.

We believe that the availability of organs from deceased donors has not been, and should be maximized. Hence, we fully support **HB 254** and **HB 1335**, as they seek to institutionalize a national program for sharing of organs from deceased donors, and in effect promote deceased organ donation. We also support **HB 291**, as it seeks to increase the number of deceased organ donations through an opt-out system, even as we also advise caution as such an opt-out approach will be difficult due to cultural considerations.

We believe that organ donation by living donors should be done in the spirit of altruism, without any hint of commercialization or commodification, and that living donors should be provided the necessary and appropriate support for their heroic act without making the support so enticing that it might already be a form of positive coercion. We believe that providing too many incentives for living donors will only increase the number of poor living non-related donors, for whom the benefits of donating will be questionable.

We also need to be mindful of the **WHO Guiding Principles on Human Cell, Tissue and Organ Transplantation** as endorsed by the **sixty-third World Health Assembly in May 2010, in Resolution WHA63.22**, and of which the Philippines is a signatory. **Guiding Principle 5** states:

*“Cells, tissues and organs should only be donated freely, without any monetary payment or other reward of monetary value. Purchasing, or offering to purchase, cells, tissues or organs for transplantation, or their sale by living persons or by the next of kin for deceased persons, should be banned.*

*“The prohibition on sale or purchase of cells, tissues and organs does not preclude reimbursing reasonable and verifiable expenses incurred by the donor, including loss of income, or paying the costs of recovering, processing, preserving and supplying human cells, tissues or organs for transplantation.”*

Room 2406 One San Miguel Avenue  
Condominium, San Miguel Avenue Corner  
Shaw Boulevard, Ortigas Center  
Pasig City, Philippines  
Tel. No. (63-2) 6871198  
Telefax. (63-2) 6871187  
E-mail address: psnmanila@gmail.com  
Website: www.psn.ph



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Hence we fully support **HB 255**, **HB 291**, and **HB 2326**, all of which prohibit the commercialization of human organs, tissues, or parts of persons, and seek to eliminate the lucrative trade in organ trafficking.

In the same light, we do not support **HB 882**, which seeks specifically to promote the practice of non-directed living organ donation and to incentivize organ donation. We also recommend that **Article IV, Section 30(c) in HB 608**, and **Article III, Section 32(c) in HB 1414**, which both provide for additional support to living donors in the form of livelihood and educational assistance, be removed, as these constitute compensation that exceeds the aim of 'reimbursing reasonable and verifiable expenses incurred by the donor'. This is a slippery slope that would best be avoided.

We believe that the practice of donation and transplantation must adhere to high ethical standards, and we believe that it is necessary to have a support system in place that will ensure such adherence. Hence we support **HB 255** and **HB 2326**, which both seek to institutionalize the National Transplant Ethics Committee and the Philippine Board of Organ Donation and Transplantation. We submit that their appointment deserves urgent and immediate attention.

We would like to assure the Committee on Health of the House of Representatives that the Philippine Society of Nephrology stands ready to assist the committee as expert champions of kidney health, as we pursue our mission to help curb the rising incidence and burden of kidney disease among Filipinos.

*Maraming salamat po.*

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