

UNOS statement on the new liver exception scores policy

Our hearts break for Erika and her family and the many others like her who continue to wait for a transplant.

More than 113,00 people are on the waitlist – that is more people than fit into any NFL or college football stadium to see a sold out game – and there are not enough organs to go around. For every transplant that happens, far more patients remain on the waitlist for a transplantable organ.

Our goal is to make the system equitable and save as many lives as possible by getting the right organ to the right person at the right time. We strive every day to reduce the number of the people who die waiting for an organ despite the fact that the need for them far exceeds the available supply.

The change to the policy was meant to make the exception scoring process more fair across the United States and help as many people as possible while making the system more equitable. We are acutely aware that this can feel otherwise when a patient or a loved one is on the waitlist and their program's request for a specific score is declined. When an exception score application is turned down, there are three levels of appeal available to transplant centers - back to the original reviewers, to a separate appeals review team and finally to the liver committee. Additionally, if the candidate's medical condition changes, the center can submit a new exception request.

While Erika's current circumstances are truly unfortunate, she is blessed to have a supportive network of family and friends, and the public attention around her story provides a unique opportunity to save lives. More organs can save more lives. Please consider signing up to be a donor if you aren't already at registerme.org and encourage your friends and family to do the same. This single act of generosity

can help Erika, others on the waitlist, and those who will be on the waitlist at some future date.