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The Organ Shortage Crisis in America

Key Findings:

- Major organ shortage in the United States
- People are not aware of the need for donors
- Article suggests that there may be concerns when it comes to legalizing the sale of organs. These include ethical debates pertaining to “discriminatory and oppressive conditions for the impoverished; the practice is tantamount to commodification, that is, the debasement of a good once it acquires a price tag; and the practice is medically unsafe.”
- This is a moral and ethical issue as it raises questions about the allocation of resources, the role of government and society, and the value placed on human life.
- Despite the medical advances made in the past to combat the shortage, the demand for organs still far outweighs the supply, and the waiting lists for transplantation continue to grow.
- The shortage is due to a lack of public awareness and education about organ donation, the ethical concerns around organ donation and transplantation, and the inadequate infrastructure and funding for organ procurement and allocation.
- The strong case for the legalization of the sale of organs pertains to the arguments for “construing organs as commodities subject to acquiring value in the free market like any other item of value for sale.”
- Reasons against: “ discrimination against the poor, (2) the commodification of a good based on its financial market value, and (3) unsafe outcomes.”

Here: “Three hundred thousand-plus souls languish in dialysis—a blood-cleaning process that leaves you dog-tired and drained, six hours a day, three times a week. Zell decided he could spare part of himself to save a fellow human from this hell.”

Summary:

While reading this article on organ transplants, it is clear that there is a lack of organs and the amount of people waiting for organ transplants exceeds the number of organs that are available. There is a lack of organs even with an increasing population because of the increased amount of diseases making these organs unusable. There is also, more generally, a lack of organ donors to begin with. Due to the lack of transplants, there is an increased amount of mortality rates urging scientists to find innovative alternatives. There are many reasons for a shortage of organs and it all reflected on the awareness and lack of education about organ donation but also the ethical concerns of organ donation. However, medical technology has advanced to a point where doctors believe that with the advancements, it is possible for transplantation. The cons still

outweigh the pros because of the shortage of organs and as time goes by the waiting list for transplants continue to increase.

Stance/Thesis Statement:

The sale of organ transplantation should not be legalized due to the disparity amongst donation acceptors, the unsafe outcomes, and the religious implications associated with organ transplantation.

Strong Reason/Topic Sentence:

Donating organs leads to a long-lasting detrimental effect on the donor's health for the rest of their life.

Evidence found:

Organ sale should not be legalized because it can lead to unfavorable impacts on the health and quality of life of donors.

After doing an organ donation for her son, a mother was left feeling extremely uncomfortable despite the procedure being done laparoscopically. She felt extremely uncomfortable and bloated for 2-4 weeks after the surgery. Donors not only have to face these considerably short term effects but they spend the rest of their lives carefully tracking their health for any significant changes. In the mother's case, she had to take anti-inflammatory medication and she was at risk for renal failure (The Organ Shortage Crisis in America page 4).

Paragraph:

In an excerpt from *The Organ Shortage Crisis in America*, there is a discussion of how organ donations can have unfavorable impacts on the health and quality of life of donors. An anecdote from a concerned mother states that she was left feeling uncomfortable post surgery where she learned that she had to "take anti-inflammatory medication and she was at risk for renal failure." This conveys how although the mother was only attempting to help her son in his health complications this led to the start of new health complications for herself. The hardships that the mother had to face were not simple ones and after being interviewed in later years, she admitted to not thinking it is right to give their organs to someone they do not know without compensation. The stress and pain she felt after giving her son her kidney is what made her, and others, strongly believe that organs cannot be given without just compensation. Donating organs should not be an action that is made legal because of the life-long health risks that come along with donating.