



## Southern Public Administration Education Foundation



### **The Public Administration of Organ Allocation: Maintaining the Public – Private Partnership**

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We examine the public administration of the Organ Procurement and Transplantation Network (OPTN), established by Congress to oversee organ rationing. In specific we examine the controversy over who has the final say on organ allocation policy. Generated by increasing demand of organs and apparent geographical inequities in waiting lists, the controversy has pitted the U. S. Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) against the United Network for Organ Sharing (UNOS), the private contractor operating the OPTN. Based on a case study of DHHS's efforts to promulgate an administrative rule regulating organ allocation, we describe the dynamics of policy making and the political arena. UNOS has claimed that policy making is best left with the private sector. We conclude that the public is well-served by maintaining a strong role for DHHS.

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