Despite federal protections such as the Americans with Disabilities Act and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, people with disabilities still face discrimination determining eligibility to receive organ transplants.

**WHAT DOES THE BILL DO?**

- Prohibits disability-based discrimination

Despite federal protections, doctors, hospitals, transplant centers and other health care providers are prohibited from denying access to necessary organ transplants solely on the basis of a qualified individual’s disability.

- Clarify, Require and Include

- Clarify that doctors, hospitals, transplant centers and other health care providers are prohibited from denying access to necessary organ transplants solely on the basis of a qualified individual’s disability;
- Require that health providers consider, in evaluating the likelihood of a transplant’s success, the full range of supports available to help a person with a disability manage their post-operative care;
- Include a fast-track procedure for challenging discrimination to ensure that people in urgent need of an organ transplant can obtain timely resolutions to their claims.

**WHAT IS INCLUDED IN THE BILL?**

- Clarify that doctors, hospitals, transplant centers and other health care providers are prohibited from denying access to necessary organ transplants solely on the basis of a qualified individual’s disability;
- Require that health providers consider, in evaluating the likelihood of a transplant’s success, the full range of supports available to help a person with a disability manage their post-operative care;
- Include a fast-track procedure for challenging discrimination to ensure that people in urgent need of an organ transplant can obtain timely resolutions to their claims.

**WHY IS THIS BILL NEEDED?**

**Misconceptions about people with disabilities**

Providers have a misconception that people with disabilities, especially those with intellectual and developmental disabilities (ID/DD), are unable to manage complicated post-operative treatment and would benefit from a transplant.

Providers may also assume that people with disabilities have a lower quality of life than those without disabilities and would not benefit from life-saving transplants.

**THE FACTS**

- **The Stanford University Study**

A 2008 survey of 88 transplant centers conducted by researchers found that 85% of pediatric transplant centers consider intellectual or developmental disability as a factor in their determinations of transplant eligibility at least some of the time.*

- **71% of heart programs surveyed “always” or “usually” considered ID/DD diagnoses when deciding eligibility for transplantation.**

- **52% of people with ID/DD receive a referral for a specialist evaluation.”**

- **33% of those who are referred are never evaluated.”**

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Charlotte Woodward received a heart transplant in 2012. Since then she has tirelessly advocated against discrimination.