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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515-3808
May 31, 2013

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The Honorable Kathleen Sebelius
Secretary, US Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20201

Dear Secretary Sebelius,

I am writing to you today on an issue that has concerns me, many Pennsylvanians, and thousands more nationwide. Sarah Murnaghan, a 10-year-old girl residing in Newtown Square, PA, is suffering from cystic fibrosis and fighting for her life. Sarah is currently waiting for lung transplant at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia (CHOP), where doctors believe she will only have a few more weeks to live without decisive action.

Unfortunately, it has been brought to my attention that due to the lack of supply of pediatric donors, it is unlikely that Sarah will receive a pediatric lung transplant. Further, the delay in receiving the transplant has been exacerbated by an Organ Procurement and Transplantation Network (OPTN) ruling. Sarah is top priority on the pediatric list. However, The OPTN's 2005 ruling included a new allocation system that does not apply to patients under the age of twelve. Sarah is ineligible for a transplant because she is under the age of twelve.

Sarah's struggle matters deeply to the communities of greater Philadelphia- as well as members of the cystic fibrosis community worldwide. Residents in Philadelphia and the surrounding suburbs have signed petitions and made calls to their representatives because they care deeply about Sarah. Despite the OPTN's ruling, many concerned citizens hope that other alternatives are available to help Sarah in her fight to live.

Sadly, Sarah is running out of time. While CHOP is treating Sarah, she may only have a few more weeks to live without a lung transplant. I respectfully request that you do everything in your authority to assist Sarah Murnaghan. I greatly appreciate your time, and I sincerely hope that the Department of Health and Human Services can provide assistance to Sarah.

I appreciate your consideration and look forward to your timely response. If you have any questions please feel free to contact me at 202-225-4276.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Michael G. Fitzpatrick". The signature is stylized and fluid.

Michael G. Fitzpatrick
MEMBER OF CONGRESS