

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

October 23, 2025

Dr. Maureen McBride
Chief Executive Officer
United Network for Organ Sharing
700 N 4th Street
Richmond, Virginia 23219

Dear Dr. McBride:

We are writing to request clarification on several of your comments at the House Energy & Commerce Oversight & Investigations Subcommittee's recent hearing titled "Ensuring Patient Safety: Oversight of the U.S. Organ Procurement and Transplantation Network." Your comments related to the United Network for Organ Sharing's (UNOS's) technology systems, and the federal government's ability to access those systems, appear to conflict with the testimony of government witnesses and reports in the public record.

In July's hearing, you rejected the notion that UNOS—the operations contractor for the U.S. Organ Procurement Transplantation Network (OPTN)—has ever obstructed attempts by federal officials with the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) to access the technology underpinning the OPTN.

Rep. Trahan: [Dr. McBride], to your knowledge, has UNOS ever obstructed or otherwise delayed government access to its technology, including by requiring HRSA engineers to physically visit UNOS facilities to view system code?

Dr. McBride: I can't speak to what happened during my predecessor's term as CEO. I can tell you that HRSA has been welcomed into our office to look at our computer system. We have conversations with them twice a week about what was happening in the OPTN system. It is a very open, collaborative process.

This answer is unacceptable. Federal government personnel using secure, government-managed computers, connected to secure, government-managed networks, should not have to travel to UNOS's office to access UNOS's systems. UNOS can and should provide secure remote access to authorized federal personnel, including engineers at HRSA.

More concerningly, however, your answer seems to contradict comments made earlier in that same hearing by Dr. Raymond Lynch, a senior official at HRSA.

Rep. Trahan: Dr. Lynch, to your knowledge, has UNOS ever obstructed or delayed government access to its technology or demanded compensation in order to turn over code and data?

Dr. Lynch: Yes.

Like you, Dr. Lynch testified under oath. Unlike you, his testimony is supported by public reporting. In 2022, *The Washington Post*, referencing an internal White House memo, reported that UNOS treated its taxpayer-funded technology as proprietary and demanded a \$55 million fee in exchange for providing the government full access to its code, data, and documentation.

The federal government should have access to the bespoke technology it—and, ultimately, taxpayers—pay for, including code, data, and documentation. And this principle must be made manifest as terms included in contracts between federal agencies and their technology vendors. Indeed, just last year, the bipartisan SHARE-IT Act was signed into law and now federal agencies must ensure that custom-developed systems like those powering the OPTN are in fact owned by the agency. Congress outlined an explicit government policy that federal agencies own the custom code they pay vendors like UNOS to produce and must thereby be allowed to freely access, share, use and oversee that code as they see fit.

Technology provides the digital foundation upon which the physical aspects of the OPTN—like organ transplantation between a donor and recipient—depend. For example, UNOS's UNet software powers organ matching, patient record management, and quality assurance across the OPTN. Put simply: technology problems are patient problems, and UNOS has a history of them. In the past, government officials looking to upgrade the OPTN's technology and remedy its operational, cybersecurity, and privacy problems have seemingly faced roadblocks erected by UNOS. This cannot continue.

To support Congressional oversight of the OPTN, we request responses to the following requests and questions no later than November 1, 2025:

1. Please provide all portions of UNOS's current contract(s) with HRSA related to technology used to operate the OPTN.
2. Please provide copies of any rules, requirements, regulations, or standard operating procedures governing federal access to UNOS systems, including code, data, and documentation.
3. Please provide all correspondence with the federal government—including HRSA—regarding its access to UNOS technology (including code, data, and documentation) since January 2021.
4. Can federal officials directly access or modify UNOS technology (including code, data, and documentation)? If so, can they do so remotely from secure government networks (i.e., outside UNOS facilities)?
5. Since January 2021, how many times have federal officials requested from UNOS to view, modify, or discuss UNOS technology (including code, data, and documentation)? For each request, please specify:
 - a. Requesting official(s), including name and agency.
 - b. Date of request.
 - c. Modality of request (e.g. email, letter).
 - d. Description of request.
 - e. Original text of request.
 - f. If the request was fulfilled by UNOS, specify the datetime.

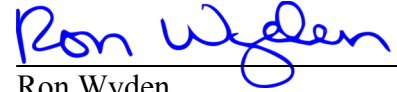
- g. If the request was not fulfilled by UNOS, specify:
 - i. The datetime.
 - ii. UNOS's rationale for denial.
 - iii. UNOS's response to requesting officials and/or the agency regarding the denial.
 - h. Whether the code was made available to the requesting officials, and if so, the manner in which it was provided.
 - i. Whether the production database was made available to the requesting officials, and if so, the manner in which it was provided.
 - j. Whether documentation was made available to the requesting officials, and if so, the manner in which it was provided.
 - k. Whether restrictions were placed by UNOS on the federal officials (i.e., the number, roles, or specific persons provided access), and if so, please specify:
 - i. The rationale for UNOS restriction(s) regarding federal officials.
 - ii. The response sent by UNOS to the requesting officials and/or agency regarding which or how many federal officials could engage with UNOS.
 - l. Whether restrictions were placed by UNOS on length of time for viewing, modifying, or discussing UNOS technology when addressing the government's request, and if so, please specify:
 - i. The rationale for the restrictions on how long the viewing, modifying, and/or discussing UNOS technology.
 - ii. The response sent by UNOS to the requesting officials and/or agency regarding time restrictions.
6. Will UNOS commit to modifying its contract to grant the federal government exclusive control over OPTN technology (including code, data, and documentation), consistent with U.S. government policy outlined in the SHARE-IT Act?
7. What is UNOS's interpretation of its obligations under FAR 52.227-14 (Rights in Data – General) regarding federal access to its technology (including code, data, and documentation)?

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,



Lori Trahan
Member of Congress



Ron Wyden
United States Senator
Ranking Member, Committee on
Finance

cc: Dr. John Magee, President, OPTN Board of Directors