

Obama lifts research ban on HIV organ transplants

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President Barack Obama speaks in the Oval Office of the White House in Washington, Thursday, Nov. 21, 2013, after signing S. 330: the HIV Organ Policy Equity Act. From left are, Dr. Peter Stock, president-elect of the American Society of Transplant Surgeons, Rep. Lois Capps, D-Calif., Rep. Barbara Lee, D-Calif. and Dr. Dan Salomon, president of the American Society of Transplantation. (AP Photo/ Evan Vucci)

President Barack Obama has lifted a ban on research into the possibility of transplanting organs from one HIV-positive person to another.

Obama signed a bill into law Thursday that directs the federal health department to develop and institute standards for conducting such research. It also permits the [health secretary](#) to allow such transplants if the research results warrant a change. The safety of the organ transplant process also must be protected.

Obama says the HOPE Act is an important step because it will help improve [medical care](#) for people living with HIV.

Advocacy groups note that, like other Americans, HIV-positive people are living longer. The groups also note that the number of people waiting for organs far exceeds the number of organs available for transplant.

More information: The bill is S.330

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