



# U.S. House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS  
1139 LONGWORTH HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING  
Washington, DC 20515

July 31, 2025

Joseph Echevarria  
President and Chief Executive Officer  
University of Miami  
230 Ashe Building  
1252 Memorial Drive  
Coral Gables, Florida 33146

Clifton McClenney  
Executive Director  
Life Alliance Organ Recovery Center  
1951 NW 7th Avenue, Suite 220  
Miami, FL 33136

Mr. Echevarria and Mr. McClenney:

We write to demand certain documents and inquire about concerning allegations made by a whistleblower about the organization you run, the Life Alliance Organ Recovery Center (“Life Alliance”). Among the most concerning statements are those regarding the misuse of taxpayer dollars, including that Life Alliance staff members were encouraged to increase their hours and bill Medicare for hours not worked; Life Alliance received reimbursement from Medicare for costs associated with the personal use of a company vehicle; and Life Alliance double dipped on its Medicare Cost Report (“MCR”) for certain expenses.<sup>1</sup> The Committee on Ways and Means (“the Committee”) is concerned that if these allegations were verified, they would constitute a violation of the False Claims Act.<sup>2</sup>

If these concerning allegations prove true, it would be yet another chapter in a troubling pattern—especially in light of the University of Miami’s settlement with the U.S. Department of Justice in 2021 to resolve claims from three separate lawsuits alleging that the University of Miami, which Life Alliance is part of as a division of the surgery department at the University of Miami medical school,<sup>3</sup> violated the False Claims Act by ordering medically unnecessary laboratory tests and submitting false claims for pre-transplant lab testing.<sup>4</sup> Confirmation of these allegations would be concerning given the Corporate Integrity Agreement (“CIA”) between the

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<sup>1</sup> See whistleblower submissions (available with the Committee on Ways and Means).

<sup>2</sup> 31 U.S.C. § 3729.

<sup>3</sup> Michelle Marchante, *How do Florida hospitals get organs for the sickest patients in need of transplants?*, MIAMI Herald (May 15, 2023), <https://www.miamiherald.com/news/health-care/article275176671.html>.

<sup>4</sup> Press Release, United States Department of Justice, *University of Miami to Pay \$22 Million to Settle Claims Involving Medically Unnecessary Laboratory Tests and Fraudulent Billing Practices* (May 10, 2021), <https://www.justice.gov/archives/opa/pr/university-miami-pay-22-million-settle-claims-involving-medically-unnecessary-laboratory>.

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Department of Health and Human Services (“HHS”) Office of Inspector General (“OIG”) and the University of Miami (“University”) that was signed as part of the 2021 settlement in *United States of America v. University of Miami*.<sup>5</sup>

Additionally, the *New York Times* recently published an article on patient safety lapses at organ procurement organizations (“OPO”) which mentioned a case involving your organization where clinicians sedated a patient, withdrew life support, and waited for death before removing the organs of a patient who was crying and biting on his breathing tube which one Life Alliance employee interpreted as the patient not wanting to die.<sup>6</sup> Patient safety lapses have long been a recurring issue for your organization and others like it, reflecting a history of ongoing concerns rather than isolated incidents. In 2015, Life Alliance was declared a “Member Not in Good Standing,” occurring from a serious violation of policies or a serious lapse in patient safety or quality of care.<sup>7</sup>

As you are aware, the Committee issued a Request for Information (“RFI”) on April 16, 2025, to elicit public information as it relates to OPOs and their ability to receive Medicare reimbursement for organ acquisition and transplant costs, the use of OPOs’ resources, and executive compensation.<sup>8</sup> The RFI also highlighted several reports conducted by the HHS OIG which found that OPOs’ unallowable costs are being reimbursed with taxpayer dollars.<sup>9</sup>

Given the nature of Life Alliance’s status as a tax-exempt organization that receives reimbursements through Medicare, the Committee is seeking to better understand the extent to which your organization has continued to engage in Medicare fraud. Additionally, the Committee wants to ensure that your organization is not using Life Alliance’s financial resources outside of the organization’s charitable purpose or to enrich board members or senior leadership. Oversight is not only warranted but necessary to uphold the public’s trust in the organ transplant system and ensure the responsible stewardship of taxpayer dollars in the delivery of care. To help the Committee better understand if Life Alliance is inappropriately billing Medicare in violation of the False Claims Act and learn more about Life Alliance’s financial decision-making processes, please provide the documents requested and answers to the following questions by August 14, 2025.

1. Please provide copies of all your general ledgers containing accounting records along with supporting documentation as well as your Medicare Cost Reports since 2021.

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<sup>5</sup> Notice of Filing Exhibit A to D.E. 93 at 6, *United States v. University of Miami*, 1:13-cv-22500-CMA (2021).

<sup>6</sup> Brian M. Rosenthal and Julie Tate, *A Push for More Organ Transplants Is Putting Donors at Risk*, NEW YORK TIMES (July 20, 2025), <https://www.nytimes.com/2025/07/20/us/organ-transplants-donors-alive.html>.

<sup>7</sup> Daniel Chang, *University of Miami organ bank fails to meet regulatory requirements*, MIAMI HERALD (Dec. 4, 2015), <https://www.miamiherald.com/news/health-care/article47968670.html>; Press Release, *Board declares Life Alliance Organ Recovery Agency a Member Not in Good Standing*, Organ Procurement and Transplantation Network (Nov. 1, 2015), <https://hrsa.unos.org/news/board-declares-life-alliance-organ-recovery-agency-a-member-not-in-good-standing/>.

<sup>8</sup> Letter from Jason Smith et al., Chairman, H. Comm. on Financial Serv., Request for Information: Activities of Tax-Exempt Organ Procurement Organizations (April 16, 2025).

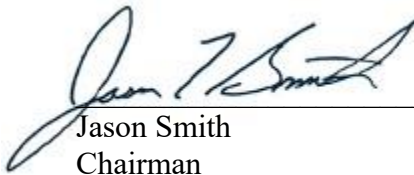
<sup>9</sup> *Id.*


2. Describe all personal financial interests or business relationships you and/or other board members, executives, or senior management at Life Alliance, or any related entity (such as foundations, institutes, and other non-profit organizations) had from 2021 to the present, with any for-profit or non-profit organization that conducts business with or maintains, or has maintained, service contracts with Life Alliance Organ Recovery Agency or other Organ Procurement and Transplantation Network member.
3. For each personal financial interest and business relationship described in question 2, please provide all records.<sup>10</sup> “Records” include all written, recorded, or graphic material of any kind, including letters, memoranda, reports, notes, electronic data (e-mails, email attachments, and any other electronically-created or stored information), calendar entries, inter-office communications, meeting minutes, phone/voice mail or recordings/records of verbal communications, and drafts (whether they resulted in final documents).
4. Please provide all records<sup>11</sup> documenting issues identified by individuals employed by Life Alliance Organ Recovery Center or the University of Miami identifying issues or questions associated with Life Alliance Organ Recovery Center’s policies, conduct, practices, or procedures with respect to a federal health care program believed by the individual to be a potential violation of criminal, civil, or administrative law.

Thank you in advance for your time and responses. If you have any questions, please contact Ways and Means Majority Committee staff at (202) 225–3625.

Pursuant to Rule X, clause 1(t) of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the Committee on Ways and Means has jurisdiction over matters related to tax-exempt organizations and the Medicare reimbursement system.<sup>12</sup> Oversight authority of this jurisdiction is delegated to the Committee under Rule X clause 2.<sup>13</sup>

Sincerely,

  
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Jason Smith  
Chairman  
Committee on Ways and Means

  
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David Schweikert  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Oversight  
Committee on Ways and Means

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<sup>11</sup> *Id.*

<sup>12</sup> Rule X, clause 1(t), Rules of the House of Representatives, (119<sup>th</sup> Cong.).

<sup>13</sup> Rule X, clause 2, Rules of the House of Representatives, (119<sup>th</sup> Cong.).