The ethics of organ donations, particularly of organ sales, has been speculated upon by many a bioethicist. The political, social, biological, and moral implications of organ sales have caused a struggle for medical policy makers for some time now. This research will delve into the possible correlation of socioeconomic status and views on the ethical problem of organ sales.

**LITERATURE REVIEW**

What are the sides to the ethical dilemma of organ donations? Can a reasonable compromise be reached? Valid arguments can be made for both sides of the question: Should the sale of organs for donation be legalized? What factors do these arguments consider? Are they complete and logical? In my research I plan to answer these questions, but I will start by taking a look at that which has already been uncovered.

Epstein (2003) makes the case that organ sales should be legalized. He points out that there are too many needs unmet for policies to remain unchanged and he addresses the possible risks for organ sales. Epstein says that it is nearly illogical not to legalize organ sales. There are simply too many people in need of organs. There is nothing more important than saving as many lives as possible. According to his logic, the benefits far outweigh the risks.

In an opposing view, Childress speaks to the claim that organ sales should not be legalized. He says that the sales will become exploitative and that they are simply unnecessary. He fears that with organ sale legalization will follow coercion and that organ transplantation will become tainted with a lack of morals. Childress offers the option of recognizing and honoring donors, instead of using monetary incentives to increase organ donation (Epstein, 2003).

Jarvis, R., Richards, J., Daar, A. S., Guttmann, R. D., Hoffenburg, R., Kennedy, I., Lock, M., Sells, M. R., Tilney, N. (1998) expand on the need for organ availability to increase and lists the options for how to go about making this change. Education in is important factor, according to this essay. The public needs to be aware of the need for organs and how they can help to end the shortage. There is not a high risk for the actual kidney donation surgery, so many individuals would be capable of undergoing the process. Jarvis also expresses concern for exploitation and states that with organ sales, organ donation may disappear. The need for kidney sales is also advocated, in an attempt to explain both sides of this issue.

Caplan (1992), delves into the actual policy of organ donations. He explains the entire process as an enormous funnel in which potential organ recipients are combed through in order to decide who will actually receive an organ.

In each of these sources one idea remains the same: A policy change needs to be made. The need for organs is too monumental to keep moving at the slow pace in which the transplant policy process is moving. Due to the two extremes of the ethical spectrum, it is clear that some sort of middle ground must be reached. A compromise must be attained and maintained. There are far too many people in need of organs to proceed without an upgrade.