

2001年4月12日，美国《波士顿环球报》刊登了一条社会新闻。一位名叫苏珊·斯蒂文的妇女，儿子急需换肾，但她的肾不适合儿子。医生建议苏珊把肾捐给不相识的人，作为交换，她的儿子排在等待换肾者的最前面。结果两个病人都换到了肾，恢复了健康。这篇文章的题目叫“母爱挽救了两条生命”。

这篇文章的本意是歌颂母爱的伟大。美国经济学家格里高利·曼昆根据这件事在《经济学原理》（第三版）中写了一个案例，以证明市场机制的调节作用。他认为，普通人有一个肾就可以生存，即人的两个肾中有一个是闲置资源，而美国每年约有6000名肾病患者由于换不到肾而死亡。如果允许肾这样的人体器官自由交易，由市场机制调节，病人生命得到挽救，卖肾者增加收入，岂不是一桩双赢的交易？

On April 12, 2001, the United States' *Boston Globe* published an article about a woman named Susan Stevens who had a son who urgently needed a kidney transplant. Unfortunately, her kidneys were incompatible as transplants for her son. A doctor recommended that Susan donate a kidney to someone she was not acquainted with as an exchange, after which her son could then be placed at the very top of the kidney transplant waiting list. The result was that two patients received transplants and both made a full recovery. This article's title was called, "A Mother's Love Saves Two Lives."

This article's original intention was to laud the greatness of motherly love. However, based on this story, American economist, Gregory Mankiw, wrote a case in *Principles of Economics* (third edition) proving the regulatory function of market mechanisms. He believes that normal people can survive with a single kidney, and for those with two kidneys, one kidney is an unused resource. Furthermore, every year in America there are about six thousand kidney disease sufferers who die because they cannot receive a kidney transplant. If we allow this kind of free human-organ trade, then through market-mechanism regulation, patients' lives can be saved and those who sell their kidneys will increase their income. Isn't this a win-win situation?