

December 13, 2019

The Honorable Roger Marshall, MD
US House of Representatives
312 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

RE: Organ Procurement Organization Improvement Act

Dear Representative Marshall:

On behalf of the American Society of Transplantation (AST) and the American Society of Transplant Surgeons (ASTS), we applaud your desire to honor the gift of organ donation and enhance the lives of those in need of an organ transplant. The AST is an organization of more than 4,000 transplant professionals dedicated to advancing the field of organ transplantation and improving patient care by promoting research, education, advocacy, organ donation and service to our patient community. The ASTS is a medical specialty society representing approximately 1,800 professionals dedicated to excellence in transplantation surgery. The mission of the ASTS is to advance the art and science of transplant surgery through patient care, research, education, and advocacy.

We have carefully reviewed the draft Organ Procurement Organization Improvement Act. The AST supports any measures that will lead to an increase in organ donation and transplantation for those in need, regardless of geographic location. While we endorse efforts to better understand variation in OPO practice, we are still unclear on how the findings from the proposed GAO study will be used to reach this ultimate goal. We look forward to continued conversation with your office and will be happy to provide any guidance or input to the GAO as needed to determine how to best understand the current environment and challenges facing the fields of organ donation and transplantation.

Again, we appreciate the opportunity to comment on this proposed legislation and your continued support of our patients.

Sincerely,



Emily A. Blumberg, MD, FAST
President
American Society of Transplantation



Lloyd E. Ratner, MD, MPH
President
American Society of Transplant Surgeons