



American Society of Transplant Surgeons

July 16, 2013

Representative Fred Upton
Chairman, Committee on Energy and Commerce
2125 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

RE: Endorsement of H.R. 698, the “HIV Organ Policy Equity” (HOPE) Act

Dear Chairman Upton:

The American Society of Transplant Surgeons (ASTS) would like to applaud the committee and lend our endorsement to H.R. 698, the “HIV Organ Policy Equity” (HOPE) Act which would amend the Public Health Service Act to establish safeguards and standards of quality for research of organs infected with human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) and expand the supply of life-saving organs available for transplantation to the over 118,000 people on the national waiting list.

ASTS is a medical specialty society comprised of over 2000 transplant surgeons, physicians, scientists, advanced transplant providers and allied health professionals dedicated to excellence in transplant surgery through education and research with respect to all aspects of organ donation and transplantation so as to save lives and enhance the quality of life of patients with end stage organ failure.

ASTS has long been committed to policies that increase the pool of available organs for transplant. More than 8,000 people die each year waiting for a suitable organ to become available while, at the same time, the national waiting list for donor organs continues to grow. The HOPE Act would remove the current legal ban on the use of HIV-positive organs for HIV-positive individuals in need of a donor organ. The law’s restriction, originally enacted in 1988, has been eclipsed by advances in HIV treatment and is simply not supportable in contemporary medicine. Furthermore, passage of this legislation will not only increase access to life-saving transplants; it will also allow the scientific and transplant community to conduct much needed research in this area.

ASTS greatly appreciates your efforts to expand the supply of life-saving organs and we appreciate your leadership in moving the HOPE Act forward. If you have any questions, or if we can be of any assistance to you, please do not hesitate to contact me or our Legislative Counsel, Peggy Tighe at (202) 872-6752 or peggy.tighe@ppsv.com.

Best regards,

Alan N. Langnas, D.O.
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