



February 25, 2016

Senator Mark Kirk  
524 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Representative Michael C. Burgess  
2336 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Senator Kirsten Gillibrand  
478 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Representative Jerrold Nadler  
2109 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Senator Kirk, Senator Gillibrand, Representative Burgess, and Representative Nadler:

On behalf of the American Society of Transplant Surgeons (ASTS), our members, and the patients we serve, thank you for introducing the “Living Donor Protection Act of 2016.” We greatly appreciate you advancing this bipartisan legislation which would remove certain barriers to life-saving transplantations by safeguarding the rights of organ donors.

Established in 1974, ASTS serves approximately 1,800 surgeons, physicians, scientists, advanced transplant providers, and other transplant professionals dedicated to excellence in transplantation surgery. Our mission is to advance the art and science of transplant surgery through leadership, advocacy, education, and training. ASTS advocates for comprehensive and innovative solutions to meet the needs of ASTS members and their patients.

We are pleased to share our strong support for the “Living Donor Protection Act of 2016.” There is a significant demand for transplantation as the national waiting list for donor organs continues to grow, with more than 121,000 patients on the waiting list, 21 of whom die each day. The “Living Donor Protection Act of 2016” would address the growing demand for transplantation by protecting organ donors from discrimination, maintaining job security for organ donors, and educating Americans on certain rights of organ donors. Specifically, the passage of this legislation would prohibit insurance companies from declining or limiting coverage or increasing the premium rate for coverage of a person under a life, disability, or long-term care insurance policy due to a person’s living organ donor status. The legislation would also provide job security to donors by clarifying that donors may use Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993 (“FMLA”) time to recover from organ donation surgery. Lastly, the legislation directs the Secretary of Health and Human Services to update educational materials on the benefits of organ donation and the impact of organ donation on the access to insurance.

**American Society of Transplant Surgeons**

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Thank you for your leadership in advancing this legislation to protect organ donors from discrimination. We applaud your recognition of the importance of addressing the growing demand for transplantation to save lives and enhance the quality of life for patients with end stage organ failure. ASTS would be pleased to work with you concerning your efforts to safeguard donors' rights and educate Americans regarding organ donation. If you have any questions, or if we can be of any assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me or our Legislative Counsel, Peggy Tighe at (202) 872-6752 or [peggy.tighe@ppsv.com](mailto:peggy.tighe@ppsv.com).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C. Miller', with a long horizontal flourish underneath.

Charles M. Miller, MD  
President

**American Society of Transplant Surgeons**

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