



American Society of Transplant Surgeons

Saving and improving lives with transplantation.

May 30, 2017

Dear Members of the New York State Legislature,

The American Society of Transplant Surgeons (ASTS), on behalf of our members and the patients we serve, strongly supports the “Living Donor Support Act of 2016.” We applaud you for introducing this legislation to reimburse living organ donors for expenses related to donation, such as lost wages, travel, and childcare expenses.

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 support for this important legislation. There is a significant demand for transplantation as the national waiting list for donor organs continues to grow, with more than 118,000 patients on the waiting list, 22 of whom die each day. The “Living Donor Support Act of 2016” would address the growing demand for transplantation by helping to ensure that organ donors do not pay a financial price for their act of altruism.

As we know from our participation in the National Living Donor Assistance Center, family members and friends often wish to donate but face substantial financial barriers, especially those of lower socioeconomic status. This legislation would help New Yorkers save the lives of their family members, friends, and fellow New Yorkers without a financial burden.

The legislation’s educational component is also critical. Patients on dialysis have worse outcomes and quality of life than those who undergo transplantation, and dialysis is also more costly than transplantation. Educating those who could benefit from receiving a transplant is critical to both saving lives and saving public funds.

We applaud your recognition of the importance of addressing the growing demand for transplantation to save lives and enhance the quality of life for

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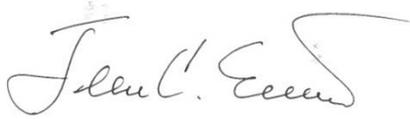
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American Transplant Congress

June 2-6, 2018
Seattle, Washington

patients with end stage organ failure. If you have any questions, or if we can be of any assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jean C. Emond". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial "J" and a long, horizontal flourish at the end.

Jean C. Emond
President
American Society of Transplant Surgeons