



American Society of Transplant Surgeons

April 2, 2013

The Honorable Max Baucus
Chairman
Senate Committee on Finance
219 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Orrin Hatch
Ranking Member
Senate Committee on Finance
219 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Re: Support for Nomination of CMS Acting Administrator Marilyn Tavenner

Dear Chairman Baucus and Senator Hatch:

On behalf of the American Society of Transplant Surgeons, I write today to support the nomination of Marilyn Tavenner as Administrator to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

We believe that Acting Administrator Tavenner is well suited to oversee the two major health-insurance programs operated by the federal government as well as implementation of key parts of the Affordable Care Act and ask that you advance her nomination before the committee as expeditiously as possible.

First nominated in November 2011 and serving as Acting Administrator since that time, Ms. Tavenner clearly has the skills and health policy acumen to perform well in this challenging position. Her background as a public health advocate, nurse, and hospital administrator adds to her depth as head of CMS.

We have not agreed with every decision CMS has made during Ms. Tavenner's tenure as Acting Administrator, nor do we expect to agree with all her future decisions as permanent CMS Administrator. But we find in Ms. Tavenner an honest broker willing to consider our views before important health policy decisions are made. It is critical that the Senate finally confirm a qualified CMS Administrator to bring consistency and clarity to some of our nation's largest and most important programs, Medicare, Medicaid, and private insurance reform.

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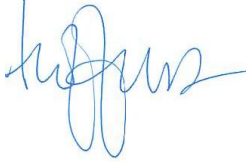
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These policies will have a direct and immediate impact on both transplant surgeons and their patients, and Ms. Tavenner has already demonstrated her ability to perform well in this capacity. We urge you to approve her nomination as expeditiously as possible. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "K. Olthoff", written in a cursive style.

Kim M. Olthoff, MD
President
American Society of Transplant Surgeons