



Saving and improving lives with transplantation.

American Society of Transplant Surgeons®

February 24, 2020

Thomas J. Engels, Administrator
Health Resources and Services Administration
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
5600 Fishers Lane
Rockville, MD 20857

Dear Administrator Engels:

As President of the American Society of Transplant Surgeons (ASTS), I thank you and your staff for the opportunity to meet with you on Friday, February 7. We are grateful for HRSA's role in the *Advancing Kidney Health Initiative* (KHI) to improve access to kidney transplantation. We also appreciate your offer to meet again to discuss our concerns.

We strongly support the KHI goal to double the number of kidney transplants by 2030. To meet that goal, we believe that it is critical for HRSA to direct the OPTN and SRTR to remove the current post transplant outcomes measures in the OPTN membership requirements and SRTR star ratings system, since these measures strongly disincentivize use of imperfect organs and inhibit innovation. To ensure that transplant centers are properly assessed, we encourage a confidential peer-reviewed process founded on continuous improvement, sharing of best practices, and defining meaningful metrics that more accurately assess overall benefit to patients.

To better serve our patients and the transplant community, we welcome the opportunity to work with you and your staff on the Kidney Health Initiative. ASTS Advocacy Manager Jen Nelson-Dowdy will reach out to you shortly to arrange our next meeting. In the meantime, please feel free to contact Daniel D. Garrett, CAE, Executive Director/CEO at Daniel.Garrett@asts.org or on 703-414-7870 with any questions.

Thank you very much for your consideration.

Sincerely,

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American Transplant Congress

May 30 – June 3, 2020
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