



Saving and improving lives with transplantation.

American Society of Transplant Surgeons®

September 12, 2018

The Honorable R. Alexander Acosta
Secretary of Labor
Department of Labor
200 Constitution Ave. NW
Washington, DC 20210

Dear Mr. Secretary:

On behalf of the American Society of Transplant Surgeons (ASTS) and the patients we serve, thank you for the Department of Labor's recent opinion letter to clarify the permitted use of Family Medical Leave Act of 1993 time for organ donation surgery. This clarification will remove a significant barrier to living organ donation and increase the number of organs available to save and improve lives throughout the United States.

ASTS has long supported legislative efforts to clarify that FMLA was intended to cover living donation. We are pleased that DOL agreed with our legal analysis in this regard and that it promoted this decision via a press statement. We hope that the Department will continue to actively communicate the decision through further dissemination of the opinion via all appropriate Department communications.

We are grateful for your leadership in protecting living organ donors from discrimination and enabling them to give the gift of life.

Sincerely,

Dixon B. Kaufman, MD, PhD
President

President

Dixon B. Kaufman, MD, PhD
University of Wisconsin

President-Elect

Lloyd E. Ratner, MD, MPH
Columbia University

Secretary

A. Osama Gaber, MD
Houston Methodist Hospital

Treasurer

William C. Chapman, MD
Washington University

Immediate Past President

Jean C. Emond, MD
Columbia University Medical Center

Past President

Timothy L. Pruett, MD
University of Minnesota

Councilors-at-Large

Peter L. Abt, MD
Wendy J. Grant, MD
Randall S. Sung, MD
Talia B. Baker, MD
Jonathan P. Fryer, MD
Alan I. Reed, MD, MBA
Michael J. Englesbe, MD
Julie K. Heimbach, MD
Debra L. Sudan, MD
Georgeine Smith, MS, MHS, PA-C

Executive Director

Kimberly A. Gifford, MBA
kim.gifford@asts.org

National Office

2461 S. Clark St.
Suite 640
Arlington, VA 22202
703-414-7870
asts@asts.org
ASTS.org

American Transplant Congress

June 1–5, 2019
Boston, Massachusetts