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the Field of Transplantation

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January 15, 2013

The Honorable Barbara Boxer  
U.S. Senate

The Honorable Tom Coburn  
U.S. Senate

The Honorable Lois Capps  
U.S. House of Representatives

RE: AST Endorsement of Your Legislation to Address HIV+ Organ Donation and Research

Dear Senators Boxer, Coburn and Representative Capps:

On behalf of the American Society of Transplantation (AST), representing the majority of professionals engaged in the field of solid organ transplantation, we applaud your ongoing work and commitment to advancing transplant medicine and the lives of thousands of individuals currently awaiting a life saving donor organ. We are grateful for your leadership.

The AST supports and endorses your legislation to amend the Public Health Service (PHS) Act to establish safeguards and standards of quality for research and transplantation of organs infected with human immunodeficiency virus (HIV). AST has reviewed and supported in the past a greater examination of utilizing organs infected with human immunodeficiency virus for individuals who are infected with such virus. However, further examination of this area of transplantation, and the transplant population that it may serve, has been difficult given the current law banning any such activities involving HIV positive organs.

We believe your legislation strikes a necessary balance to advance transplantation and further explore better use of a specific organ supply while at the same time establishing safeguards to protect donors, recipients and the public health. AST looks forward to working with you and your staff to advance this key legislation in the 113th Congress.

If you have any questions or requests of AST, please do not hesitate to contact us directly or our Director of Government Relations Bill Applegate [\(202\) 258-4989](tel:2022584989).

Best Regards,

Dr. Roslyn Mannon  
President AST

Dr. Dan Salomon  
President-Elect AST

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**AMERICAN TRANSPLANT  
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