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February 18, 2013

The Honorable

Kathleen Sebelius

Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services

200 Independence Avenue, SW

Washington, DC 20201

The Honorable

Howard Koh, M.D.

Assistant Secretary for Health

The Honorable

Mary Wakefield, Ph.D., R.N.

Administrator, Health Resources and Services Administration

RE: Endorsement of Dr. Jimmy Light for Director of HHS-HRSA Division of Transplantation (DoT)

Dear Secretary Sebelius, Assistant Secretary Koh, and Administrator Wakefield:

On behalf of the American Society of Transplantation (AST), the leading society for transplant professionals in North America, I am writing in support of the candidacy and application of Dr. Jimmy A. Light for Director of the HRSA Division of Transplantation (DoT). Dr. Light has been a thought leader in the field of solid organ transplantation for more than three decades.

Throughout his career, Dr. Light has been a mainstay in transplantation, defining policy, providing a careful rationale in the decision making of organ allocation, directing a major transplant center from the ground up, and being a tireless advocate for the patient. Dr. Light has a unique combination of experiences that make him an outstanding candidate for the position of Director of HRSA-DoT. As a graduate of the University of Michigan School of Medicine, he completed his internship and residency in general surgery at the Walter Reed Army Medical Center. He then served in Vietnam and was the Chief of Surgical Services for the 71st Evacuation Hospital in Vietnam. On returning stateside, he completed his transplant surgical fellowship also at Walter Reed, and then joined the faculty of the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences with his clinical activities at Walter Reed. Over the next 5 years, he became Chief of Transplant Services for the Military and was promoted to Professor of Surgery at USUHS.

After retiring from the military in 1983, Dr. Light became the Chief of Transplantation at the Washington Hospital Center, a large metropolitan hospital in the District of Columbia. There, he established one of the most visible and active programs in the MD-VA-DC area. On top of that, he provided significant service to both the hospital and transplant community as Board member and later President of the local OPO (now known as the Washington Regional Transplant Consortium) and also served as a Board member and later President of the National Kidney Foundation of the Nation's Capital.

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Along with multiple terms on editorial boards of prominent journals, advisory boards on kidney transplant therapeutics, and abstract review committees, Dr. Light has held numerous prominent leadership positions in the field of kidney transplantation including:

- Transplant Advisory Committee, Maryland State Health Commission;
- Board of Directors, Coalition on Donation;
- Data and Safety Monitoring Board, NIAID;
- Faculty member, HRSA Organ Donation and Transplantation Breakthrough Collaborative;
- Board of Directors, International Society for Organ Sharing
- At-Large Board of Directors, United Network for Organ Sharing.

Dr. Light's career has been distinguished by numerous awards, invited speaking engagements around the world, and key publications in kidney transplantation, organ allocation, immunosuppression and outcomes, as well as significant contributions through clinical research in kidney transplant recipients. This combination of extensive surgical experience, managerial experience and understanding of regulatory matters make him an ideal candidate to lead HRSA-DoT.

On a personal note, I worked closely with Dr. Light from 2000-2008 when I was Medical Director of Kidney Transplantation at the National Institutes of Health intramural transplant program at the Mark O. Hatfield Clinical Center in Bethesda. He was an insightful leader in the local transplant community and had interest not only in our clinical protocols, but also in the professional development of his colleagues. He reminded me on every occasion that it was the patient's welfare that should be our key mission throughout our academic careers.

The AST strongly endorses the candidacy of Dr. Jimmy Light for Director of HRSA-DoT. Please do not hesitate to contact me directly if I may answer any questions or provide additional information.

Sincerely,



Roslyn B. Mannon, M.D.
President, American Society of Transplantation
Professor of Medicine, Division of Nephrology
Professor of Surgery, Division of Transplantation
Director of Research, Comprehensive Transplant Institute
University of Alabama at Birmingham

CC: AST Board of Directors