

Tuesday, July 16, 2013

The Honorable Lois Capps, RN
2231 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Andy Harris, MD
1533 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Capps and Representative Harris,

On behalf of the American Society of Nephrology's (ASN) more than 14,000 physicians, scientists, nurses, and other health professionals, thank you for your leadership regarding H.R. 698, the HIV Organ Policy Equity (HOPE) Act. ASN is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to promoting excellence in the care of patients with kidney disease. Foremost among the society's goals is continuous improvement in the quality and accessibility of care available to the millions of people with kidney disease.

ASN strongly supports the HOPE Act and applauds you and the House Energy and Commerce Committee for considering this common-sense legislation in markup on Tuesday, July 16, 2013. Given that deceased donor organs are in short supply, ASN believes that this bipartisan legislation will increase all patients' access to transplantation, saving lives and dollars.

The more than 95,000 Americans currently on the waitlist for a transplant need better access to life-saving organs. **By providing patients with HIV faster access to a new supply of HIV+ organs—significantly shortening the wait list for individuals without HIV who are currently waiting for a transplant—the HOPE Act will directly benefit every American, including the nearly 21,000 Californians and nearly 3,000 Marylanders currently waitlisted.**

Having met with nearly one in three of the members of the House of Representatives offices' who ultimately cosponsored the HOPE Act, ASN can attest that members of Congress across the political spectrum recognize that this bill is noncontroversial legislation with direct benefits for the thousands of Americans waiting for a transplant. **At a time when reaching across the aisle is rare, the overwhelming bipartisan support for this bill and its rapid advancement in the House underscores the importance of this legislation for patients and is a testament to your leadership.**

Again, ASN thanks you for championing this scientifically sound, no-cost bill in the House and looks forward to continuing to collaborate with you, the House Energy and Commerce Committee, and other cosponsors to enact the HOPE Act in 2013.

Sincerely,



Tod Ibrahim
Executive Director