

Friday, November 15, 2013

Dear Senator Boxer,

On behalf of the American Society of Nephrology's (ASN) nearly 15,000 physicians, scientists, nurses, and other health professionals, thank you for your leadership during the House's November 12, 2013 passage of H.R. 698, the HIV Organ Policy Equity (HOPE) Act.

ASN is proud to have collaborated with you and your staff to make this legislation a policy priority in Congress, and the society is pleased to see the bill advance to the President's desk to be signed into law.

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.

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 currently in need of a transplant. Once fully enacted, this bill may add up to 600 organs per year for HIV positive transplant candidates and expand the total pool of available organs.

Native Californian and patient advocate, Shamey Cramer, who has been living with HIV for nearly 30 years and was instrumental in advocacy efforts, notes that the law will help all patients, both with and without HIV. "The HOPE Act really does give new hope to all patients who are waiting for the gift of life."

Again, ASN thanks you for championing this scientifically sound, no-cost bill in the House and looks forward to the HOPE Act's implementation.

To learn more about the HOPE Act, please visit <http://asn.kdny.info/qJCN3>.

To learn more about the kidney transplantation, please visit <http://asn.kdny.info/qJCVB>.

Sincerely,



Sharon M. Moe, MD, FASN
President