

Thursday, November 21, 2013

Dear Congressman Harris,

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 advancing the passage and enactment of the HIV Organ Policy Equity (HOPE) Act on Thursday, November 21, 2013.

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

At a time when reaching across the aisle is rare, the overwhelming bipartisan support for this bill and its rapid advance in the House underscores the importance of this legislation for patients and is a testament to your leadership.

The more than 105,000 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—reducing the wait list for individuals without HIV who are currently waiting for a transplant—the HOPE Act will directly benefit every American awaiting a lifesaving organ, including the nearly 3,000 Marylanders 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.

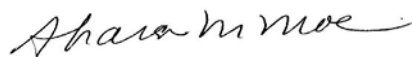
Patient advocate Shamey Cramer, who has been living with HIV for nearly 30 years and was instrumental in advocacy efforts, notes that the law will help all patients, both with and without HIV. "The HOPE Act really does give new hope to all patients who are waiting for the gift of life."

Again, ASN thanks you for championing this bill 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 kidney transplantation, please visit <http://asn.kdny.info/qJCVB>.

Sincerely,



Sharon M. Moe, MD, FASN
President