

Tuesday, July 16, 2013

Dear Members of the Energy and Commerce Committee:

The American Society of Nephrology (ASN) applauds the House Energy and Commerce Committee's Tuesday, July 16, 2013, markup of **H.R. 698**, the HIV Organ Policy Equity (HOPE) Act. The society supports H.R. 698 and appreciates your consideration of this common-sense legislation, which would increase all patients' access to transplantation, saving lives and dollars.

The more than 95,000 Americans currently on the transplant waitlist need faster access to life-saving organs. The no-cost HOPE Act would help reduce the organ shortage and increase access to transplantation, which is the optimal therapy for kidney failure for most patients.

The overwhelming bipartisan support for this bill and its rapid advancement in both chambers underscores that this is noncontroversial legislation with direct benefits for the thousands of Americans waiting for a transplant.

The HOPE Act would simply eliminate a scientifically outdated statute barring the transplantation of organs from deceased HIV+ donors to waitlisted patients with HIV. Lifting this ban could add up to 600 organs per year. Patients with HIV would get faster access to the new supply of HIV+ organs, significantly shortening the wait list for individuals without HIV who are currently waiting for a transplant.

On behalf of the ASN's more than 14,000 physicians, scientists, nurses, and other health professionals, thank you consideration of H.R. 698. As a not-for-profit organization dedicated to promoting excellence in the care of patients with kidney disease, ASN is grateful for your attention to this life-saving no-cost legislation.

Sincerely,



Tod Ibrahim
Executive Director

cc: Senator Barbara Boxer
Representative Lois Capps, RN
Senator Tom Coburn, MD
Representative Andy Harris, MD