

## CONGRESS PASSES LEGISLATION THAT PROMOTES GREATER TRANSPLANT ACCESS

*A major ASN priority, this legislation benefits patients, physicians, and taxpayers*

Congress has passed legislation that could add up to 600 organs per year for HIV-positive transplant candidates and expand the total pool of available organs. ASN made this legislation a policy priority, and the society pushed for passage of the bill. The passage of the HIV Organ Policy Equity (HOPE) Act will have a profound impact on patients with kidney disease by saving lives and money.

By paving the way for research into positive-to-positive transplants, the HOPE Act will create an avenue for expanding the donor pool so that patients—both HIV positive and HIV negative—will have greater access to life-saving transplants.

“This legislation will preserve valuable organs and save lives by establishing guidelines for safe HIV-positive to HIV-positive transplants,” said Michelle Josephson, MD, who leads the ASN Transplant Advisory Group.

As HIV-positive patients eventually gain access to a new, unique pool of organs, other patients on the transplant list benefit from faster access to HIV-negative organs. “The HOPE Act could reduce waiting times for a life-saving transplant, which is why ASN so passionately advocated its passage,” said ASN President Sharon Moe, MD, FASN. ASN met with more than a third of the members of the U.S. House of Representatives who cosponsored the bill.

While the HOPE Act does not directly affect federal spending, it has the potential to decrease Medicare spending by providing more opportunities for patients to move off dialysis and receive a kidney transplant.

**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>.**

