

June 3, 2025

RE: Thank You for Introducing Life Saving Legislation – the Living Donor Protection Act of 2025 (S. 1552)

On behalf of the American Society of Transplant Surgeons (ASTS), our members, and the patients we serve, we enthusiastically thank you for your leadership in introducing the *Living Donor Protection Act of 2025* (S. 1552).

This legislation represents an important consensus between insurers and transplant providers, reflecting a comprehensive, patient- and donor-centered approach to reducing disincentives to living donation. The bill will prohibit life, disability, and long-term care insurers from limiting coverage for individuals who are living donors. Specifically, it contains clear language preventing insurers from making coverage or payment decisions based solely on a person's status as a living donor, absent any specific insurance risk. Notably, ASTS worked closely with insurers in crafting this important policy.

The demand for transplantation continues to outpace organ supply. More than 113,000 patients are currently on the national transplant waiting list, with 22 dying each day. The *Living Donor Protection Act of 2025* will help address this disparity by protecting living organ donors from discrimination, preserving their job security, and educating Americans about the rights of organ donors. This bill enjoys widespread, bipartisan support and received a \$0 preliminary score from the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) in 2024.

Kidney disease and kidney failure pose a significant threat to every American, with a disproportionately harmful impact on minority and communities of color—populations already facing health inequities, disparate care, and lower transplant rates. Increasing living organ donation will save thousands of lives and livelihoods every year. Yet, significant barriers remain. Patients, potential donors, transplant professionals, social workers, and community advocates frequently cite fears of job loss, insurance discrimination, and financial insecurity as major obstacles to living donation.

ASTS firmly believes no individual should face discrimination or hidden penalties for their noble decision to become a living organ donor. No donor should risk their job security, career, or life, health, and disability insurance as a consequence of this selfless act.

Thank you again for your commitment to protecting living donors and expanding access to life-saving transplants by safeguarding the rights of organ donors. We applaud your efforts to address the growing demand for transplantation to save lives and enhance the quality of life for patients with end-stage organ failure. If you have any questions, please contact Emily.Besser@asts.org or our Legislative Counsel, Peggy.Tighe@PowersLaw.com.

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ASTS serves approximately 2,400 surgeons, physicians, scientists, advanced transplant providers, and other transplant professionals dedicated to excellence in transplantation surgery. ASTS advocates for comprehensive and innovative solutions to meet the needs of our patients.

Sincerely,

Ginny L. Bumgardner, MD, PhD, FACS