



February 27, 2026

The Honorable Bill Cassidy, M.D.  
Chairman, Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Bernie Sanders  
Ranking Member, Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Cassidy and Ranking Member Sanders:

On behalf of the American Society of Transplant Surgeons (ASTS), representing over 2,400 surgeons, physicians, and scientists dedicated to excellence in transplant surgery, I applaud the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions (HELP) in taking crucial steps to move the Living Donor Protection Act (LDPA) (S. 1552 / H.R. 4582 and H.R. 4583). ASTS is dedicated to excellence in transplantation surgery and advocates for comprehensive and innovative solutions to meet the needs of our patients.

Currently over 90,000 patients are waiting for lifesaving kidney transplants, according to data from the Organ Procurement and Transplantation Network. This crucial legislation represents nearly 20 years of legislative, political, policy review and negotiations between dozens of stakeholders representing living organ donors and transplant recipients, transplant professionals, and insurers.

The LDPA language has been refined through multiple Congresses to strike a deliberate balance: **meaningfully protecting living donors from insurance discrimination and ensuring their job security under the Family and Medical Leave Act**, without imposing undue burdens on insurers or disrupting existing coverage frameworks. That balance is precisely what has made the legislation broadly supported and ready for enactment upon adoption.

We stand ready to work with the Committee, Senate leadership, and House counterparts to advance the Living Donor Protection Act **this Congress**. Passage of identical legislation in the House would make this bill the law of the land, providing these important assurances to donors and recipients, their families, and transplant providers who serve them.

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This markup is a powerful step toward ending discriminatory practices towards our living donors, and I am deeply grateful to yourselves and all members of the HELP Committee for their leadership. If ASTS can assist in any way, please contact ASTS Legislative Counsel, Peggy Tighe, at [Peggy.Tighe@PowersLaw.com](mailto:Peggy.Tighe@PowersLaw.com) or Emily Besser, Director, Advocacy & Professional Practices, at [Emily.Besser@asts.org](mailto:Emily.Besser@asts.org)

Sincerely,

James. F. Markmann, MD, PhD