January 12, 2018

The Honorable
Johnny Isakson (R-GA)
Chairman
Committee on Veterans' Affairs
United States Senate
412 Russell Senate Office Bldg.
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable
Jon Tester (D-MT)
Ranking Member
Committee on Veterans' Affairs
United States Senate
412 Russell Senate Office Bldg.
Washington, DC 20510

RE: Support for Swift Approval & Passage of the Veterans Increased Choice for Transplanted Organs and Recovery (VICTOR) Act

Dear Chairman Isakson and Ranking Member Tester,

On behalf of the American Society of Transplantation (AST), representing a majority of the nation's medical professionals engaged in the field of solid organ transplantation, we urge you to approve and advance the Veterans Increased Choice for Transplanted Organs and Recovery (VICTOR) Act. This important legislation is necessary to further strengthen the transplant community's ability to better serve those U.S. veterans in need of a lifesaving donor organ.

As you may know, the U.S. House of Representatives passed the VICTOR Act unanimously on November 7, 2017. We are hopeful that through your leadership this key legislation will also move swiftly through the U.S. Senate.

The VICTOR Act seeks to amend the Veterans Access, Choice, and Accountability Act of 2014 to include among veterans eligible to receive hospital care and medical services through agreements with the Department of Defense, the Indian Health Service, federally-qualified health centers, or health care providers that participate in the Medicare program a veteran:

- who require an organ or bone marrow transplant; and
- who has a medically compelling reason to travel outside the veteran's Organ Procurement and Transplantation Network region in which the veteran resides to receive a transplant at a VA facility, such as geographical challenges, environmental factors, or a medical condition.
that affects the ability to travel.

The AST applauds your ongoing leadership and steadfast commitment to the health of our nation's veterans. Veterans and their families often face a variety of challenges while awaiting a lifesaving donor organ. If enacted, the VICTOR Act will address many of these hurdles while providing necessary flexibility and greater access to transplantation for those individuals that have already made so many great sacrifices for our freedom.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of our request. If you have any questions or require additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me directly or the AST Director of Government Relations, Bill Applegate, (202) 258-4989.

Sincerely,

Ronald G. Gill, PhD
President