

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

---

**NATIONAL OFFICE**

1120 Route 73, Suite 200 • Mt. Laurel, NJ 08054  
856.439.9986 • Fax: 856.581.9604  
info@myAST.org • www.myAST.org

**GOVERNMENT RELATIONS**

William Applegate, Director of Government Relations  
Bryan Cave, LLP  
1155 F Street, NW • Washington, DC 20004  
202.258.4989 • bill.applegate@bryancave.com

**AMERICAN TRANSPLANT CONGRESS 2018**

June 2 – 6, 2018  
Seattle, WA

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](tel:2022584989).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ronald G. Gill". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Ronald" being the most prominent.

Ronald G. Gill, PhD  
President