



Improving Human Life by Advancing the Field of Transplantation

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December 26, 2013

The Honorable Barbara Mikulski (D-MD)
Chair
U.S. Senate Committee on Appropriations
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Richard Shelby (R-AL)
Ranking Member
U.S. Senate Committee on Appropriations
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Tom Harkin (D-IA)
Chair
U.S. Senate Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Labor, Health & Human
Services

The Honorable Jerry Moran (R-KS)
Ranking Member
U.S. Senate Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human
Services

RE: Robust Federal Funding Allocation to the Labor-HHS Appropriations Subcommittee

Dear Appropriations Committee Chairs and Ranking Members:

On behalf of the American Society of Transplantation (AST), representing the majority of professionals engaged in the field of organ transplantation, I urge you to provide the strongest possible FY 2014 302(b) allocation for the Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies (Labor-HHS) Appropriations Subcommittee within the discretionary cap established by the recently passed Bipartisan Budget Act of 2013 (BBA). The Labor-HHS appropriations bill, representing the largest of the nondefense discretionary 302(b) allocations, impacts nearly every American through its services and programs....including through the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and vital medical research that strengthens and preserves the health safety and security of our nation.

In addition to supporting a robust funding allocation for the Labor-HHS Appropriations Subcommittee, our community of transplant professionals strongly urges you to pass a Labor-HHS appropriations bill as part of the anticipated omnibus, rather than a continuing resolution (CR) to fund critical activities in agencies such as the NIH. Medical research has faced devastating cuts in recent years and Congress must make every effort to address the damage that has already been done. Rebuilding our investments in medical research will benefit the economy and reduce the deficit through improved diagnosis, treatment and cures for disease. In addition, the economic benefits of a strong biomedical infrastructure across the nation and in your own home States and Congressional districts are undeniable. Simply put, biomedical research is a life saver and job creator.

Organ transplantation, which has saved and enhanced the lives of more than 600,000 people in the United States, would have never been possible without Congressional, Agency and private sector support. Medical research supported by the NIH fueled and ultimately led to the creation of the field of organ transplantation. In addition to saving and extending lives, organ transplantation has also generated substantial savings to the Medicare Program through the foregone need for dialysis. Without steady and sustainable support for NIH, much of the past progress and future achievements will soon go unfunded and discontinued. Without investments by the NIH, important discoveries in areas such as "tolerance" would likely have never been made....and there would have never been a life saving field of organ transplantation.

NATIONAL OFFICE

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GOVERNMENT RELATIONS

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WORLD TRANSPLANT CONGRESS 2014

July 26-31, 2014
San Francisco, CA

Page 2

It is our hope that the BBA will restore regular order to the federal budget and appropriations process...and allow for some much needed reinvestment in our nation's eroding domestic priorities. AST urges Congress to build upon the recent success of the Bipartisan Budget Act by establishing a significant allocation for the Labor-HHS Appropriations Subcommittee and passing a Labor-HHS appropriations bill rather than another continuing resolution.

Sincerely,

Daniel R. Salomon M.D.

Dan R. Salomon, M.D.
President



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The Honorable Harold Rogers (R-KY)
Chair
U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Jack Kingston (R-GA)
Chair
U.S. House of Representatives
Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, HHS

The Honorable Nita Lowey (D-NY)
Ranking Member
U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro (D-CT)
Ranking Member
U.S. House of Representatives
Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, HHS

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Daniel R. Salomon M.D." in a cursive style.

Dan R. Salomon, M.D.
President