

AMERICAN SOCIETY FOR HISTOCOMPATIBILITY & IMMUNOGENETICS

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January 8, 2020

The Honorable Anna Eshoo
Chair
House Committee on Energy and
Commerce
Subcommittee on Health
U.S. House of Representatives
2125 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington DC 20515

The Honorable Michael Burgess
Ranking Member
House Committee on Energy and
Commerce
Subcommittee on Health
U.S. House of Representatives
2322-A Rayburn House Office Building
Washington DC 20515

Dear Chairwoman Eshoo and Ranking Member Burgess:

On behalf of the American Society for Histocompatibility and Immunogenetics (ASHI), we appreciate the Subcommittee's work to improve Americans' health care coverage and outcomes by highlighting current deficiencies in Medicare coverage of immunosuppressive drugs for kidney transplant patients.

ASHI is a professional association of clinical and research professionals dedicated to advancing the science and application of histocompatibility and immunogenetics. The compatibility testing performed by ASHI members is an integral component of successful kidney transplantation, and the organization strongly supports policies strengthening the continued success of these transplants by decreasing the likelihood of preventable rejection. H.R. 5534, the *Comprehensive Immunosuppressive Drug Coverage for Kidney Transplant Patients Act of 2019*, would provide this vital support by permanently removing the harmful 36-month Medicare coverage limit on immunosuppressive drugs post-transplant.

Given the significant number of patients awaiting transplants and the limited supply of transplantable kidneys, ASHI encourages the Subcommittee to support and advance H.R. 5534 to bolster the long-term success of kidney transplants. If ASHI can be of any assistance, please contact Katherine Giovetsis at kgiovetsis@ashi-hla.org.

Thank you for work on this important issue.

Sincerely,

Medhat Askar, MD, PhD, D(ABHI)

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