

**AMERICAN SOCIETY
OF TRANSPLANTATION**



*Improving Human Life by Advancing
the Field of Transplantation*

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February 2, 2009

Dear Senator:

On behalf of the American Society of Transplantation (AST), we respectfully request your support of an amendment that Senator Arlen Specter intends to offer to "The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009." The Specter amendment would increase the amount allocated to the National Institutes of Health (NIH) by \$6.5 billion. The AST, representing the majority of professionals engaged in the field of solid organ transplantation, includes thousands of researchers that depend on federal support for their careers in advancing U.S. science and medical breakthroughs.

In fiscal year 2007, every \$1 million that the public invested in NIH research generated \$2.21 million in new business activity across the nation. At a recent House Energy and Commerce Committee hearing, Dr. Raynard Kington, Acting Director of the NIH, stated that each NIH grant supports seven jobs on average. Since grants are dispersed to all 50 states and 90 percent of congressional districts, increasing funding for science will have a significant positive impact on job growth. And unlike many other proposals to stimulate the economy, funding NIH grants will have an immediate impact on the economy because these grants can be funded in 4-6 weeks, stimulating local economies through salaries and purchase of equipment, laboratory supplies, and vendor services.

The AST remains deeply concerned about the future of biomedical research in the United States without sustained support from the federal government. The Society strongly supports long-term, sustainable increases in federal funding for biomedical research in order to provide the additional resources needed to enable American scientists to address the burgeoning scientific opportunities and new health challenges that continue to confront us. Please support Senator Specter's amendment to S. 1 as a critical first step towards a sustainable, national commitment to fund the science and technology that drives our long-term economic progress.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

Barbara Murphy, MD
President

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