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January 15, 2009

AST POSITION ON SENATOR SPECTER'S PROPOSAL

AST has worked diligently over the past 10 years to become recognized as one of the leading authorities on transplantation issues. AST's position statements and key policies are designed to educate members of Congress and the Executive Branch on issues that affect the transplantation community.

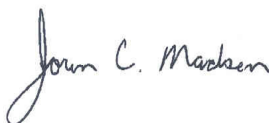
When Senator Arlen Specter (R-PA) introduced a proposal that addressed the issue of "incentives in organ transplantation," he sought input from AST. AST appreciates Pennsylvania's senior senator's attention to transplant issues and studied his proposal within the parameters of the AST Organ Donation Position Statement (http://www.a-s-t.org/index2.cfm?Section=public_policy&Sub1Section=key_position_statements&content=organ_donation.cfm), which states, "The Society is opposed to payment for organs from living and deceased donors." AST President Barbara Murphy reiterated the AST's opposition to cash payments for organs (http://www.a-s-t.org/newsletter/nov_dec/secondary.cfm?section=articles&content=president_letter). To view the AST letter to Senator Specter, please visit the AST website at http://www.a-s-t.org/files/pdf/public_policy/Specter_9_18.pdf.

As Senator Specter's proposal evolves, AST encourages the Senator and his staff to closely examine the AST position statement. AST will continue to monitor Senator Specter's proposal and present the proposal to the AST Board of Directors. AST will reserve comment until it receives a final version of this proposal to determine whether it is compatible with AST's Organ Donation Position Statement.

Signed,



Barbara Murphy, MD
AST President



Joren C. Madsen, MD, DPhil
AST President-Elect

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**AMERICAN TRANSPLANT
CONGRESS 2009**

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