

April 10, 2020

The Honorable Tammy Baldwin
United States Senate
709 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

RE: AST Endorsement of S. 3584, Workers First Protection Act


Dear Senator Baldwin,

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 applaud and endorse your recent introduction of S. 3584, the Workers First Protection Act. As always, the AST is grateful for your ongoing leadership and steadfast support of the healthcare community.

AST believes that S. 3584, directing the Department of Labor (DOL) to issue a comprehensive emergency temporary standard (ETS) to protect workers against the coronavirus pandemic, is a very positive step toward combatting public health crises now and in the future. We further support your legislation's establishment of a permanent infectious disease standard to prevent shortages of critical medical supplies such as the current dilemma regarding personal protective equipment (PPE) for first responders, medical professionals and patients. As you may be aware, many of our solid organ transplant patients are already quite fragile, immunocompromised and disproportionately vulnerable to infectious disease. If passed, S. 3584 would be quite helpful in terms of protecting our transplant community as well as all patient, provider, and first responder communities.

Thank you again for introducing this very necessary and important legislation to address a critical need that we are all unfortunately experiencing on a daily basis. AST looks forward to working closely with you and your office to advance and pass the Workers First Protection Act. Please do not hesitate to contact myself or the AST Government Relations Director, Bill Applegate.

Sincerely,



Emily Blumberg, M.D.
President