

Board of Directors**Chair**

Michael Horberg, MD, MAS, FIDSA
Kaiser Permanente
Internal Medicine

Chair-Elect

Joel Gallant, MD, MPH, FIDSA
Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine
Infectious Diseases

Vice Chair

Adaora Adimora, MD, MPH, FACP, FIDSA
University of NC School of Medicine
Infectious Diseases

Immediate Past Chair

Judith Aberg, MD, FIDSA
New York University School of Medicine
Infectious Diseases

Wendy Armstrong, MD, FIDSA
Emory University
Infectious Diseases

Natella Rakhmanina, MD, PhD, FAACP
Children's National Medical Center
Pediatrics/HIV Medicine

J. Kevin Carmichael, MD, FIDSA
El Rio Special Immunology Associates
Family Medicine

Melanie Thompson, MD
AIDS Research Consortium of Atlanta (ARCA)
Internal Medicine

Alan Taege, MD
Cleveland Clinic Foundation
Infectious Diseases

Edwin DeJesus, MD, FACP, FIDSA
Orlando Immunology Center
Infectious Diseases

IDSA Board Representative

Carlos del Rio, MD, FIDSA
Emory University
Infectious Diseases

W. David Hardy, MD
Cedars-Sinai Medical Center/UCLA
Infectious Diseases

Lisa Hirschhorn, MD, MPH, FIDSA
Harvard Medical School
Infectious Diseases

Theresa Mack, MD, MPH
St. Lukes Hospital
Internal Medicine

Richard Moore, MD, MHS, FIDSA
Johns Hopkins University
Internal Medicine

James Raper, DSN, CRNP, JD, FAANP, FAAN
University of Alabama at Birmingham
Nurse Practitioner

Pediatric Infectious Diseases Society Liaison

Coleen Cunningham, MD
Duke University Medical Center
Pediatric Infectious Diseases

Advisory Member

Alice Pau, PharmD, FIDSA
NIH/NIAID/OCR
Open Seat

Executive Director

Andrea Weddle, MSW

July 16, 2013

The Honorable Fred Upton, Chairman
Energy and Commerce Committee
U.S. House of Representatives

The Honorable Henry Waxman, Ranking Member
Energy and Commerce Committee
U.S. House of Representatives

RE: HIVMA Endorsement of the HOPE Act (H.R. 698)

Dear Members of the Energy and Commerce Committee:

The HIV Medicine Association (HIVMA) of the Infectious Diseases Society of America commends the Committee for taking up consideration of the HIV Organ Policy Equity (HOPE) Act, H.R. 698. This important legislation will reform a medically outdated federal ban on the use of organs from deceased HIV-infected donors for recipients with HIV infection who are on the organ donation waiting list. HIVMA is the professional home of more than 5,000 physicians, scientists and other health care professionals who practice on the frontline of the HIV/AIDS pandemic.

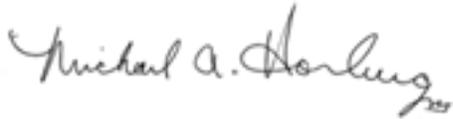
HIV infection is no longer a contraindication to solid organ transplantation, and transplantation can be the best clinical option for many patients with end-stage organ failure. However, a severe organ shortage in the United States leads to considerable mortality and morbidity for patients awaiting transplants. For transplant candidates infected with HIV, deceased donors with the same infection may represent a unique source of organs that researchers estimate could potentially save the lives of approximately 1,000 HIV-infected patients with liver and kidney failure each year. Unfortunately, the legal ban on HIV-infected organ donation presently prohibits scientific exploration of HIV-infected organ donation as a potentially lifesaving measure for people living with HIV infection.

The HOPE Act would update provisions of the National Organ Transplant Act (NOTA) to reflect the current medical understanding of HIV/AIDS, and appropriately vest authority for regulating HIV-infected organ donation with the Department of Health and Human Services. This change in policy is important to support medical progress and allow for the research necessary to fully evaluate HIV-infected organ donation to HIV-infected patients. It would additionally increase access to transplantation for HIV-infected patients, reduce deaths while on the organ transplant waiting list, save Medicare an estimated \$500,000 per patient transplanted, and maintain provisions to ensure safety of the national supply of organs.

The United States Senate passed the HOPE Act on June 17, 2013, on unanimous consent, with resounding bipartisan support. Led by Senator Tom Coburn, MD, and Senator Barbara Boxer, the bill was supported by a diverse group of co-sponsors including Senators Paul, Baldwin, Enzi, Warren, Burr, Landrieu, Blunt, Pryor and Kirk. We urge Committee passage of this life-saving measure, and especially applaud the bill's authors and co-sponsors for their leadership.

Thank you again for your consideration and support of this important legislation. We look forward to working with you to move the bill forward as expeditiously as possible. Please count on HIVMA as a resource, if we may be of any assistance. We can be reached through HIVMA's policy officer, Kimberly Miller, at kmiller@hivma.org or (703) 740-4957.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Michael A. Horberg".

Michael Horberg, MD, MAS, FIDSA
Chair, HIVMA Board of Directors

cc: Members of the House Energy and Commerce Committee
Rep. Andy Harris, MD
The Honorable Barbara Boxer, U.S. Senate
The Honorable Tom Coburn, U.S. Senate