March 23, 2020

Dear Speaker Pelosi, Leader McConnell, Leader McCarthy, and Leader Schumer:

Thank you for your continued leadership during this national state of emergency regarding the COVID-19 pandemic. As physicians on the front lines we understand the gravity of the current pandemic and the immediate need to adequately provide protection to all healthcare workers. Given the highly contagious nature of this novel virus, it is imperative that high-quality personal protective equipment (PPE) be available to those administering care to patients. Last week on March 18th, President Trump issued an executive order (EO) invoking the Defense Production Act (DPA) to warrant the manufacture of necessary medical equipment to combat COVID-19.

The American Society for Transplantation and Cellular Therapy (ASTCT) urges Congress to ensure the implementation of the DPA. The ASTCT is a professional membership association of more than 2,200 physicians, scientists, and other healthcare professionals promoting blood and marrow transplantation and cellular therapy through research, education, scholarly publication and clinical standards. The ASTCT serves the Medicare and Medicaid populations and the transplantation community which includes some of the most vulnerable patients. Patients who receive transplantation in both the BMT and cellular therapy setting are among the most susceptible to disease given their compromised immune systems. It is imperative that we ensure the safety of these patients and that all healthcare professionals who interact with these patients be fully prepared with personal protective equipment.

In the interest of the American people we must act now in order to help prevent any further spread of the virus. Without action and the proper equipment available, healthcare providers lack the ability to save patients’ lives and risk compromising their own health. The ASTCT is more than happy to serve as a resource to you and your staff should you need any additional information.
Thank you again for your leadership and attention to this extremely important matter during these unprecedented times.

Sincerely,

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