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Reader's view

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Camp thanked

To the editor:

I would like to thank Congressman Dave Camp for being a staunch supporter of better care for people with kidney failure. He recently sponsored a bill (H.R. 1458) that would provide patients with continuing Medicare support to purchase immunosuppressive medications.

We have all seen stories about the thrill of receiving a kidney transplant. What we don't hear about is those that lose the transplant because Medicare coverage to purchase these expensive medications runs out after three years and their bodies reject the new organs. Imagine the heartbreak when a kidney recipient has to go back on dialysis and let a new kidney fail. As taxpayers, we have improved quality of life significantly by helping people in need get transplants. Rep. Camp's bill would save taxpayers' money, preserve donated kidneys longer and make more kidneys available for future patients.

The National Kidney Foundation supports this legislation through its exciting new initiative, "End the Wait." This multifaceted program will improve outcomes of first transplants, increase deceased donation and living donation and improve the system of transplantation in the U.S.

This bill is a first step toward accomplishing those goals. It will reduce the need for re-transplantation of people who rejected their transplants because they stopped taking their immunosuppressive drugs after 36 months due to the expense.

As a dialysis patient for three years and a transplant recipient for four years, I can attest to the benefits of being a kidney recipient instead of dialysis patient.

Thank you, Dave, for all you do for kidney patients.

STEVE DOLAN

Midland

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