



National
Kidney
Foundation®

July 26, 2017

The Honorable Greg Walden
Chairman
Committee on Energy and Commerce
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Michael Burgess, M.D.
Chairman
Subcommittee on Health
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Frank Pallone
Ranking Member
Committee on Energy and Commerce
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Gene Green
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Health
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

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Dear Representatives Walden, Pallone, Burgess and Green:

The National Kidney Foundation (NKF) commends you for today's committee hearing to examine Medicare Advantage Special Needs Plans (SNPs) and is particularly supportive of Chronic Condition Special Needs Plans (C-SNPs) and Dual-eligible SNPs. Specifically, we support a long-term authorization of C-SNPs to increase certainty and improve long-range planning for patients, plans and providers.

These plans offer great care coordination and supplemental benefits to help individuals with complex chronic conditions such as end stage renal disease (ESRD), diabetes, and heart disease overcome some of the obstacles they would face in obtaining care in a fee-for-service environment. Services including access to an exercise facility, transportation to medical appointments, and more can help beneficiaries better receive the care they need and self-manage their conditions.

C-SNPs have experience in providing tailored benefits and services to individuals with chronic conditions and should be a permanent option for those beneficiaries. Patient satisfaction and outcomes in C-SNPs for ESRD beneficiaries has been consistently favorable. We were pleased the Senate Finance Committee included permanent authorization for SNPs and urge your committee to do the same.

Sincerely,

Troy Zimmerman
Vice President, Government Relations