

Virtual Briefing: Kidneys and COVID-19: Navigating Health Disparities in Minority Communities

Wednesday, May 27, 2020



NAACP



Moderator: Lorna Hankins

Speakers

Lorna Hankins, Moderator, Executive Director,
NKF Serving Texas

Michael Phillips, kidney transplant recipient,
COVID-19 survivor, and NKF advocate

Deidra C. Crews, MD, ScM, Associate Professor
of Medicine, Division of Nephrology, and Associate
Director for Research Development, Johns
Hopkins Center for Health Equity

Francesca Weaks, MS, MCHES, DrPH(c), Policy
and Research Manager at the NAACP

Agenda

COVID-19 and Kidney Disease: One Patient's Perspective

An Overview of Kidney Disease

Kidney Disease, COVID-19 and Minority Health

Policy and Legislative Issues

Questions



Mr. Michael Phillips

- Received Kidney Transplant in January 2019 at Northwestern University Hospital
- Lives with Husband and their teenage son just outside Chicago
- Back in early March, after attending a family birthday party, family members began falling ill
- Soon, his husband, who has diabetes, fell ill
- Eventually Michael, his husband, and their son would test positive for COVID-19
- Several other family members would also test positive, and one would die.



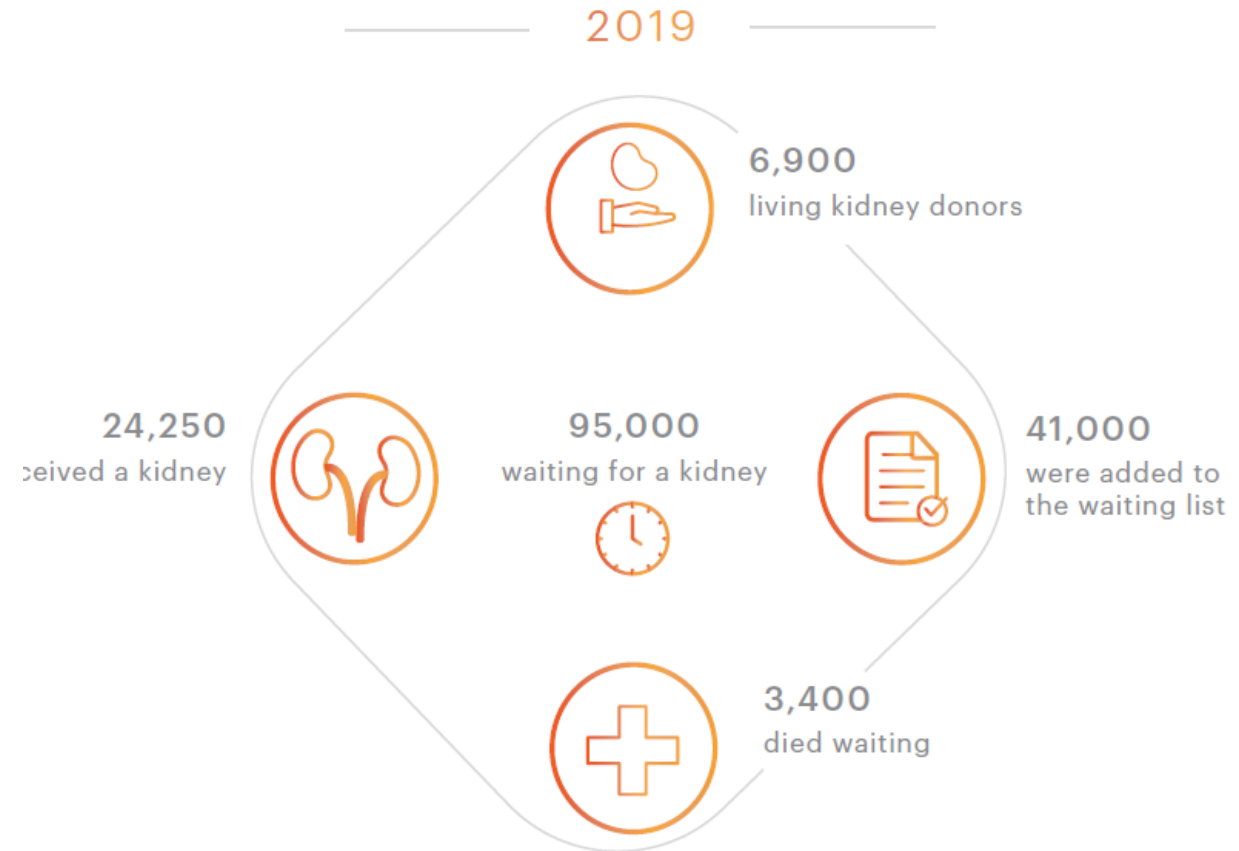
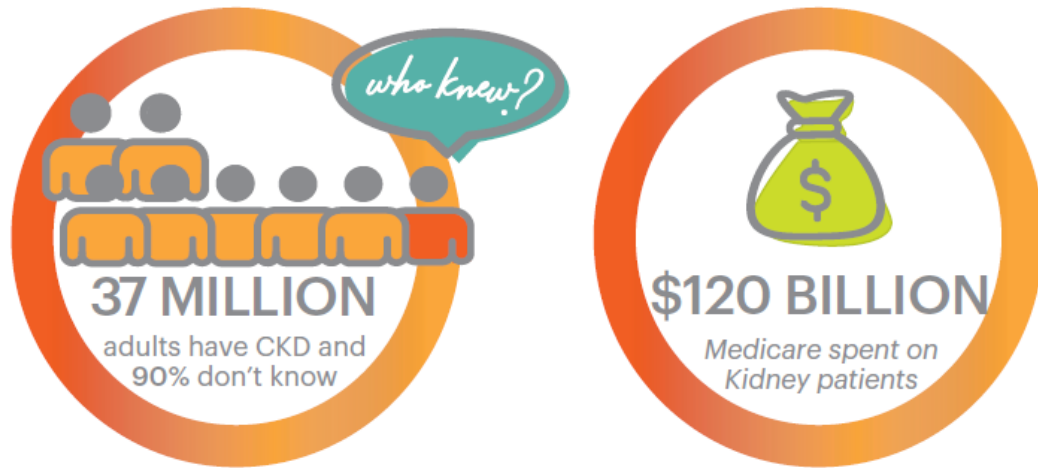
Deidra C. Crews, MD, ScM

- Overview of Kidney Disease
- Kidney Disease and Communities of Color
- Kidney Disease and COVID-19
- Combating Health Disparities

Kidney Disease By the Numbers: National

AMERICAN ADULTS WITH

CHRONIC KIDNEY DISEASE (CKD)



There Are 500,000 Americans Receiving Dialysis & 200,000 Transplant Patients

About Kidney Disease



WHAT DO KIDNEYS DO?

- Remove Wastes
- Balance Fluids
- Help Control Blood Pressure
- Regulate Hormones
- Keep Bones Healthy
- Balance Minerals in Body
- Make Red Blood Cells



KIDNEY DISEASE

When the kidneys no longer work well, it can lead to problems including:

- Heart and Blood Vessel Problems
- Kidney Failure
- Death



RISK FACTORS

- Diabetes
- High Blood Pressure
- Family History
- Older Age
- Social Disadvantage

Social Disadvantage and Disparities in Kidney Disease

- African-Americans are 13% of U.S. population, but 32% of those with kidney failure
- Hispanics and Native Americans are 2 times as likely as Caucasians to develop kidney failure
- People facing housing insecurity are 3 times more likely to develop early kidney disease
- Low income individuals are twice as likely as high income to develop kidney failure



More than words: The issues surrounding disparities in chronic kidney disease. *Adv Chronic Kidney Dis*, 22(1): 2015.

Challenges Magnified for Socially Disadvantaged People During COVID-19 Pandemic



Lack of access to basic resources such as food, water, shelter, and transportation



Suboptimal housing conditions



Employment in essential jobs with limited protections



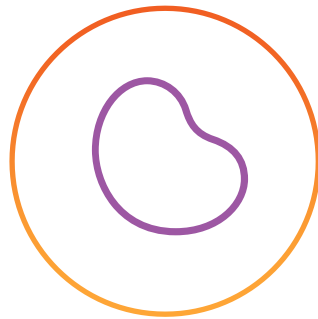
Lack of access to healthcare services



Mistrust of institutions due to discriminatory experiences

Kidney Disease and COVID-19

Americans living with kidney disease, especially people on dialysis and transplant recipients, are at increased risk of severe infection and mortality from **COVID-19**, the disease caused by the novel coronavirus.



IMMUNOSUPPRESSED



DIALYSIS PATIENTS



INCREASED RISK

Emerging Data on Kidney Impact of COVID-19

TRANSPLANT RECIPIENTS

- **28% of patients died** within 3 weeks of hospitalization as compared with 1-5% mortality in general population of COVID positive individuals, and reported 8 to 15% mortality among those >70 years

Source: Akalin et al. NEJM. 2020 April 24.

ACUTE KIDNEY INJURY

- At Hofstra/Northwell in New York, among first 5,449 COVID-positive patients admitted, **36.6% developed acute kidney injury**, and 14.3% of those required dialysis
- **Black race was associated with increased risk** for acute kidney injury

Source: Hirsch et al. Kidney Int. 2020 May 13.



Challenges Facing Kidney Patients During COVID-19

PPE Availability

Access to Home Dialysis

Remote Lab Tests

90-day drug supply

Transportation

Essential Medical Procedures

Francesca Weaks, MS, MCHES, DrPH(c)



- Data on how communities of color are disproportionately affected by COVID-19
- How do social determinants of health explain this?
- How has the NAACP engaged on this issue?

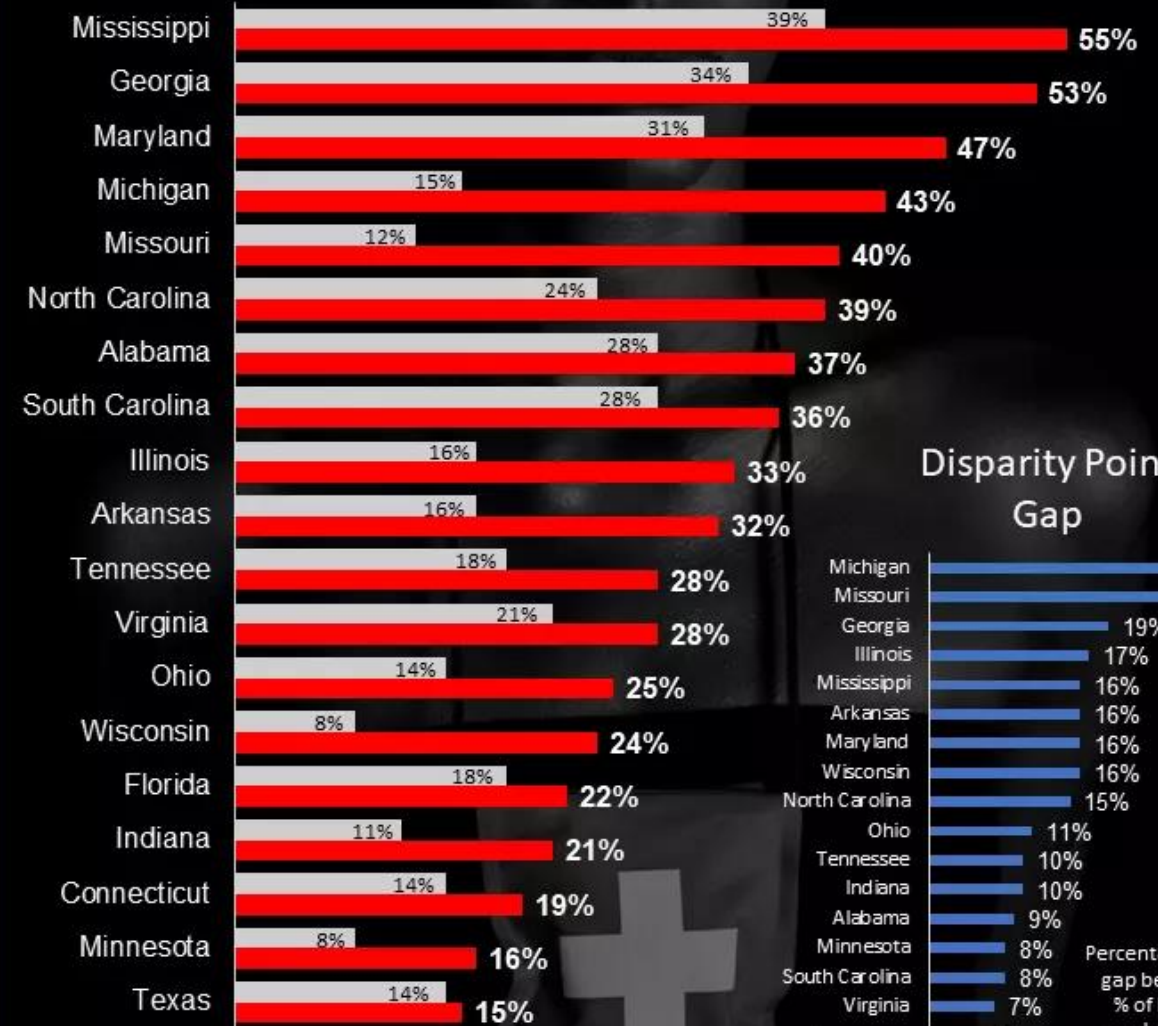
Black COVID-19 Disparity

Comparing Black COVID-19 positive test results as of April 22nd 2020
in states where race is counted



AFRICAN AMERICANS AS:

■ % OF POPULATION VS ■ % OF COVID19 CASES



Black COVID-19 Disparity

<https://blackdemographics.com/black-covid-19-disparity/>

Chronic Diseases & Co-Morbidities

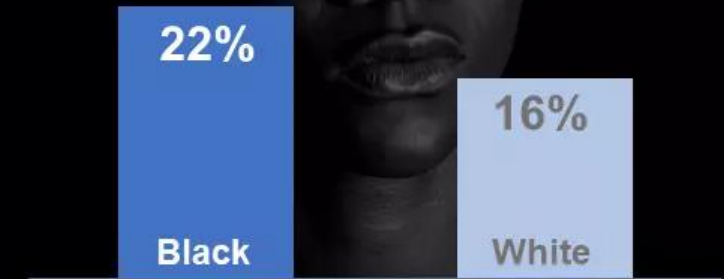
<https://blackdemographics.com/black-covid-19-disparity/>

Black Adult Health Risks

Age 18 and up

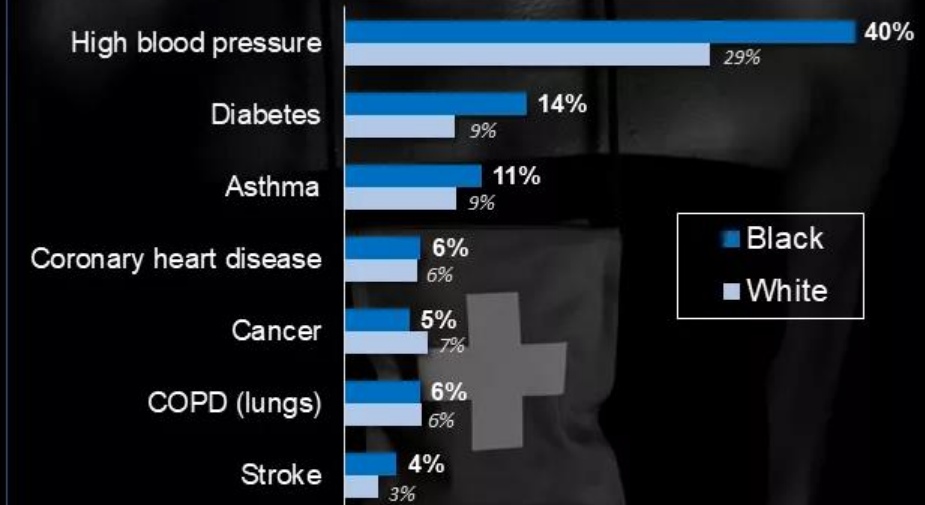


Have Fair/Poor Health Status



Have Chronic Health Illness

Age 18 and up



SOURCE: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services – CDC Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
Cunningham TJ, Croft JB, Liu Y, Lu H, Eke PI, Giles WH. Vital Signs: Racial Disparities in Age-Specific Mortality Among Blacks or African Americans – United States, 1999–2015. MMWR Morb Mortal Wkly Rep 2017;66:444–456. DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.15585/mmwr.mm6617e1External>.
BlackDemographics.com



10 Equity Impacts of the Coronavirus COVID-19 Outbreak on Communities of Color

1. Racism and stigmatization have increased, particularly towards the Asian and Asian American populations.

2. Certain populations including immigrants, incarcerated people, people over 60 years old, people with disabilities, people with special health needs, and others are at an added risk of exposure and other implications.

3. Frontline workers face tough choices between abstaining from work or risking exposure.

4. Census and voting may be jeopardized as public outings continue to dwindle.

5. Coronavirus remediation will result in increased exposure to toxic cleaning chemicals.

6. Children and college students risk exposure in schools. If schools close, students may experience food or housing insecurities.

7. There is a lack of accessibility to testing kits.

8. Quarantine policies and practices are unfolding with a risk to human and civil rights.

9. The coronavirus has already been used to justify increased militarization and more restrictive immigration policies and practices.

10. Denial and misinformation on the crisis can worsen the outbreak.

10 Policy Recommendations to Temper the Equity Impact of the Coronavirus on Communities of Color

1.Shift the narrative surrounding the crisis:“The virus is the enemy, not the person who is infected.”

2.Adopt policies that increase access to childcare, healthcare and humane, sanitary living conditions to at-risk, vulnerable populations.

3.Advocate for the establishment of a paid leave system, strengthened OSHA standards, provision of training and safety gear, and routine testing for all workers.

4.Ensure the data collection for the Census through online and telephone enumeration, extend voting hours, and minimize large gatherings.

5.Significantly increase the stringency of the Toxic Substances Control Act.

6.Advocate for equal standards of sanitation, safety, and health as well as education continuity, food assistance for families and the establishment of housing assistance through Stafford Act provisions.

7.Advocate for funding for an effective health infrastructure, prioritization of testing for vulnerable groups/populations, and equitable distribution of limited hospital supplies.

8.Establish and enforce a Quarantine Bill of Rights.

9.Establish sanctuary sites, repeal the travel ban and repeal of the restrictions on the provision of healthcare to immigrants.

10.Advance litigation for the willful misleading of the public for political gain while jeopardizing the wellbeing of the nation.

Social Determinants of Health



Criminal Justice

- Louisiana Prisons Lag in Inmate Releases as Coronavirus Spreads Behind Bars
 - https://www.nola.com/news/coronavirus/article_11c54f08-739f-11ea-b290-4b2c1a651506.html
- The Coronavirus Could Spark a Humanitarian Disaster in Jails and Prisons
 - <https://slate.com/news-and-politics/2020/03/coronavirus-civil-rights-jails-and-prisons.html>



Economics

- Poverty Is the Virus that Puts Us at COVID-19 Risk
 - <https://www.usatoday.com/story/opinion/2020/03/23/coronavirus-spread-poverty-covid-19-stimulus-column/2899411001/>
- Racism in the time of COVID-19
 - <https://iaphs.org/racism-in-the-time-of-covid-19/>

National NAACP COVID-19 Plan

Racial Health Equity

Education & Awareness

<http://naacp.org/coronavirus/frequently-asked-questions/>

Policy

<https://naacp.org/coronavirus/coronavirus-policy-briefs-statements-letters/>

Resources

<https://naacp.org/coronavirus/coronavirus-resources/>

Discrimination Cases & Social Justice Advocacy

<https://naacp.org/coronavirus/report-discrimination/>

Qualitative Research

<https://naacp.org/coronavirus/tell-us-your-story/>

What Can Policy Makers Do To Help Minority Communities and Kidney Patients After COVID-19?

Data	Priority	Investments	Awareness
Provide quality, disaggregated data on all tests, hospitalizations, discharges and deaths from COVID-19	Ensure priority testing, contact tracing, vaccination, and funding to high-risk and minority communities and kidney patients	Support long-term investments in public health infrastructure in traditionally underserved communities	Increase funding for kidney research and awareness, including through NIDDK and the KidneyX initiative

National Kidney Foundation: COVID-19 ADVOCACY

5/21/2020 — A letter addressing the unique needs of kidney patients as the country re-opens, including COVID-19 testing, supplies and vaccination, dialysis, elective surgeries, organ donation, transplantation, and drug supplies. [Read the letter here.](#)

5/15/2020 — A letter urging HHS leadership to issue additional guidance to make clear that state emergency triage guidance that would limit or restrict access to life-saving care for certain patients with underlying conditions due to the COVID-19 pandemic violate federal antidiscrimination laws. [Read the letter here.](#)

5/8/2020 — A letter urging Senate leadership to provide emergency supplemental funding for the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases as well as KidneyX to meet the unique challenges facing people with kidney diseases in response to the COVID-19 outbreak and for future crises. [Read the letter here.](#)

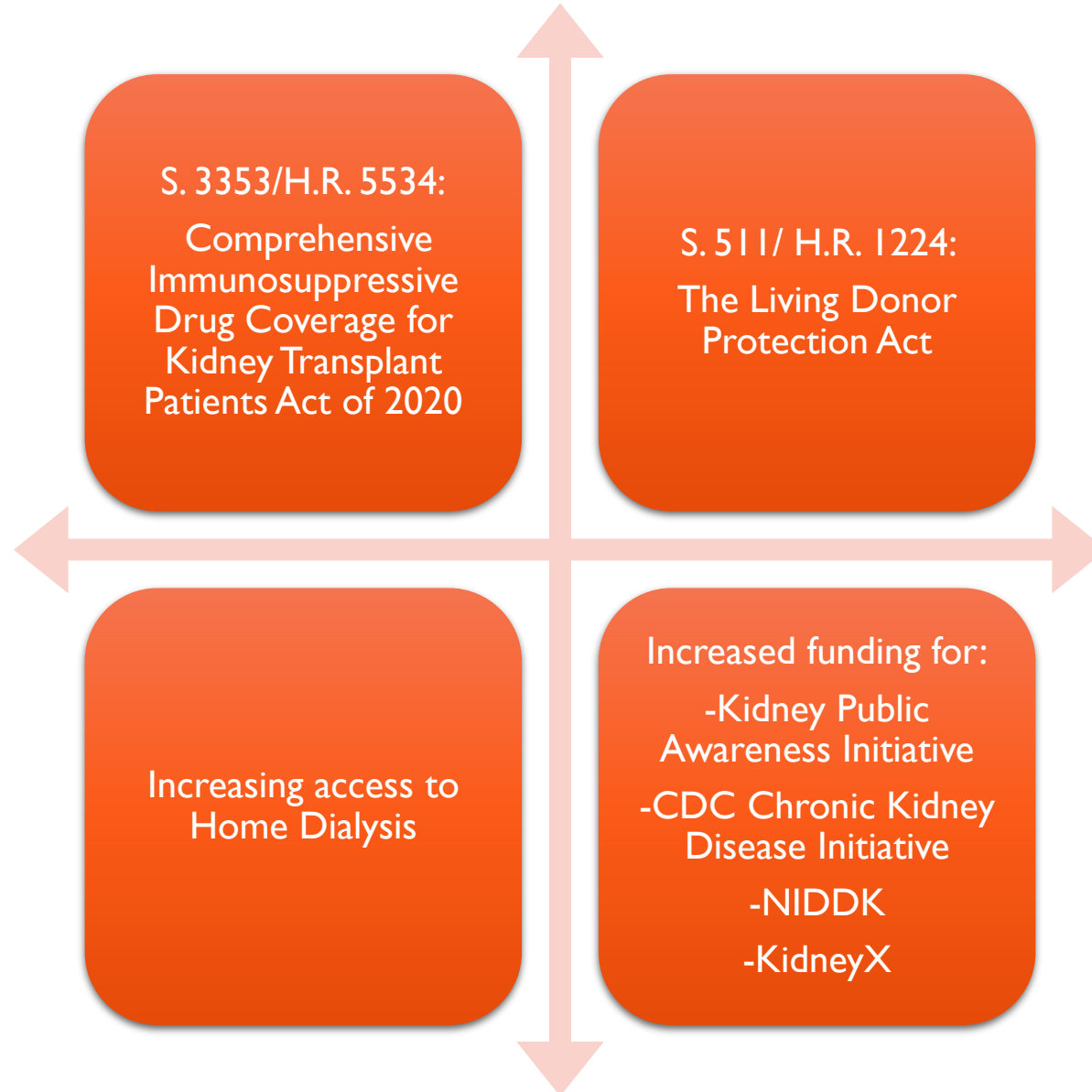
4/28/2020 — A letter urging House leadership to appropriate emergency supplemental funding for the National Institute for Diabetes, Digestive, and Kidney Disease to study the impact of COVID-19 on patients with Chronic Kidney Diseases as well as End State Renal Disease, and to obtain a better understanding of how COVID-19 leads to Acute Kidney Injury. [Read the letter here.](#)

4/21/2020 — A letter to the Medicare contractors responsible for processing Part B claims requesting that they pay for greater-than-30-day supplies of immunosuppressive drugs and non-emergency ambulance transport for dialysis patients who are Covid-19 positive or suspected to have it.

4/2/2020 — A letter addressed to health systems across the country expressing NKF's dismay at policies that would deny dialysis patients with permanent kidney failure access to ICUs in a crude attempt to optimize hospital resources during the Covid-19 outbreak. [Read the letter here.](#)

3/31/2020 — A letter to request that FEMA and the Department of Homeland Security release additional PPE from the national stockpile and ensure these supplies are directed to kidney patients and the professionals that care for them. [Read the comments here.](#)

National Kidney Foundation: Legislative Priorities

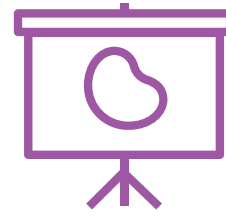


About National Kidney Foundation: How We Help



PREVENTION

KEEP Healthy
Screenings
Your Kidneys & You
Pediatric Education



PATIENT EDUCATION SERVICES & SUPPORT

Patient Empowerment
Workshops/Seminars
The Big Ask, The Big Give
NKF Peers
NKF Cares
Drive for Dialysis



PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION & MEMBERSHIPS

CME Activities
Spring Clinical Meetings
Professional Councils
Renal Roundtables



PUBLIC ADVOCACY

Legislative and Regulatory Advocacy
NKF Advocates



Q&A

Please write any questions in the
chat box now!



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If you have questions following this
presentation or would like to engage with
the National Kidney Foundation, email
Lauren Drew (lauren.drew@kidney.org)