



NATIONAL KIDNEY
FOUNDATION®



April 28, 2025

The Honorable Russell Vought
Director of the Office of Management and Budget (OMB)
Eisenhower Executive Office Building
1650 17th St NW
Washington, DC 20006

Cc: Donald Dempsey
Associate Director for Health, OMB

Dear Director Vought,

As you implement the President's vision for the Department of Health and Human Services and advance the Make America Healthy Again agenda, we respectfully request your consideration of including chronic kidney disease (CKD) prevention funding initiatives in the newly created Administration for a Healthy America as a strategic opportunity to demonstrate the White House's commitment to fiscal responsibility and improved healthcare outcomes for Americans with chronic diseases.

The Department's proposed Fiscal Year (FY) 2026 restructuring will create new opportunities to address kidney health as a model for effectively addressing chronic disease and lowering healthcare costs, particularly through the creation of the Administration for a Healthy America. *Most cases of kidney failure are preventable* yet Medicare currently spends approximately \$86 billion (26% of its budget) on beneficiaries with kidney disease and an additional \$45.3 billion on end-stage renal disease. Without effective intervention, projections indicate over one million kidney failure patients by 2030, representing an increasingly unsustainable fiscal burden on taxpayers and the American workforce.

We appreciate new opportunities to advance kidney health through the proposed prioritization of the Organ Procurement and Transplantation Network (OPTN) Modernization Initiative and the creation of the Assistant Secretary of Innovation. These activities will leverage new technologies and digital capabilities to transform how patients experience kidney failure. We hope to continue to partner with the White House and the newly reorganized Department of Health and Human Services to drive change for patients.

While we support your efforts to streamline the Department and eliminate inefficiencies, we are concerned about ensuring the continuity of essential patient-focused programs through this transition. Kidney disease surveillance, detection, and research initiatives have demonstrated exceptional value in improving lives and reducing costs. We respectfully request that as you

implement structural changes, proven programs focused on CKD find appropriate homes within the new organizational framework, perhaps within the Administration for a Healthy America.

The Chronic Kidney Disease (CKD) Initiative and kidney research directly support your core priorities. First, these programs eliminate wasteful spending as early detection prevents billions in avoidable dialysis costs, with prevention being significantly less expensive than treatment. Approximately 35.5 million Americans have CKD, but 90% remain unaware of their condition and 30 to 40% of Americans begin dialysis without receiving any prior nephrology care. These patterns lead to preventable healthcare expenditures.

Second, they return healthcare decisions to states and citizens by supporting state-level implementation with federal coordination, empowering communities while providing a framework for success.

Third, these initiatives focus on prevention rather than expanding America's complex and bureaucratic healthcare system, allowing for streamlined implementation through existing channels without creating additional administrative structures.

Fourth, this approach continues the foundation established by the first Trump Administration's Advancing American Kidney Health Executive Order, demonstrating policy continuity and commitment to improving Americans' health.

With approximately 80 million Americans at risk for kidney disease due to common conditions like diabetes and hypertension, strategic investment in this area represents an exceptional opportunity to demonstrate your commitment to reducing long-term healthcare costs through prevention, empowering Americans to maintain their health independence, developing market-based solutions through targeted research, and improving healthcare quality while reducing government expenditure.

The essential work of kidney disease research and the CKD Initiative are fundamental to addressing the rising costs of kidney disease while improving the lives of millions of Americans. By maintaining these investments within your restructured Department, you can ensure both policy continuity with the previous Trump Administration's kidney health initiatives while advancing your Make America Healthy Again vision.

We stand ready to work with you and your team on implementation strategies that maximize efficiency and effectiveness in service to the American people.

Thank you for your consideration of this important opportunity.

Sincerely,



NATIONAL KIDNEY
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Kevin Longino, MBA
NKF CEO & Kidney Patient

Dr. Kirk Campbell
NKF President