

Coalition for Kidney Health Applauds Introduction of Bipartisan Kidney Disease Education Access Expansion Act

Legislation would expand access to kidney disease education and screening, helping patients understand their risk and act earlier to slow disease progression

WASHINGTON, D.C. — [07/02/2026] — The Coalition for Kidney Health today applauded Representatives Suzan DelBene (D-WA-01) and John Joyce, M.D. (R-PA-13) for introducing the bipartisan Kidney Disease Education Access Expansion Act of 2026, legislation that would help more people living with or at risk for chronic kidney disease (CKD) access the education, screening, and support they need earlier in their care journey.

Chronic kidney disease is a serious and under-recognized public health crisis. 37 million people in the United States are living with CKD, and many do not know they have it until the disease has already progressed. Patients are not given the information they need about kidney disease, treatment options, lifestyle interventions, and steps they can take to delay progression until they are facing kidney failure, dialysis, or transplant.

The Kidney Disease Education Access Expansion Act would strengthen the existing Medicare kidney disease education benefit by expanding eligibility to individuals with hypertension, diabetes, any stage of CKD, or other risk factors for kidney disease progression or kidney failure. It would also support earlier kidney screening through Medicare preventive visits and broaden access to kidney disease education services through group education, caregiver participation, telehealth, and a wider range of qualified health care professionals.

“Knowledge is one of the most powerful tools patients and families have in the fight against kidney disease,” said Miriam Godwin, Vice President of Health Policy at the National Kidney Foundation, on behalf of the Coalition for Kidney Health. “Too often, CKD is a story of missed opportunities for prevention, early diagnosis and early treatment to slow or stop the progression of kidney disease. The current kidney disease education benefit reaches too few people too late. Earlier education can help patients understand the importance of managing diabetes and high blood pressure, learning about lifestyle changes and therapeutic options that may slow kidney function decline, preparing for treatment decisions, and connecting with the right members of their care team. Kidney disease education is at the core of avoiding unnecessary complications, supporting better transitions of care, and giving patients and families more time to plan before kidney failure becomes a crisis. We are grateful to Representatives DelBene and Joyce for their bipartisan leadership and commitment to improving kidney care.”

The Coalition for Kidney Health has long supported policies that improve CKD awareness, increase screening among at-risk individuals, advance high-quality coordinated care, and empower patients to participate in shared decision-making with their clinicians and caregivers. Expanding access to kidney disease education is a critical part of that mission.

The Coalition urges Congress to advance the Kidney Disease Education Access Expansion Act and continue working toward a health care system that identifies kidney disease earlier, supports patients sooner, and improves outcomes for people living with or at risk for CKD.

About the Coalition for Kidney Health

The Coalition for Kidney Health is a multistakeholder group of partners with an interest in early detection and management of chronic kidney disease. The Coalition works to transform CKD care by advancing legislation and regulatory policies that improve awareness of CKD and screening of at-risk patients, drive high-quality coordinated care, delay CKD progression, prevent and manage complications and comorbidities, and empower patients to make informed, shared decisions about their care in partnership with caregivers and clinicians.

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