The optimal treatment for most patients with kidney failure is transplantation. And, studies show that the best-functioning, longest-lasting type of transplant comes from a living donor. But the number of kidneys falls far too short of the need. In the U.S.:

- **19,059 people** are waiting for a kidney transplant.
- **3,848** died waiting in 2016.
- **5,628 living donors** in 2016.
- **35,406 were added to the waiting list in 2016**.
- **100,000+ people are waiting for a kidney transplant**.
- **19,059 received a transplant in 2016**.

Only **10%** know they have CKD, and **26 million remain undiagnosed**. The Medicare cost is **$103 billion**.

The National Kidney Foundation is the leading organization in the U.S. dedicated to the awareness, prevention and treatment of kidney disease for hundreds of thousands of healthcare professionals, millions of patients and their families, and tens of millions of Americans at risk.
**How can Congress help fight kidney disease?**

**Chronic Kidney Disease Early Detection and Management (H.R. 3867)**
Co-sponsor legislation that seeks to establish a pilot program to help improve care, and outcomes, for patients with chronic kidney disease (CKD). The legislation demonstrates that early detection of CKD, combined with effective and coordinated care that engages patients in the decision-making process, can not only improve clinical results but also lower health care costs.

**Living Donor Protection Act (H.R. 1270)**
Co-sponsor legislation that would prohibit discrimination in life, disability, or long-term care insurance for living donors. The bill also adds living donation to the Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA).

**Appropriations**
Increase funding in Fiscal Year 2018 for CDC’s Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion to fight Chronic Kidney Disease, the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases (NIDDK), and the Health Resources and Services Administration’s (HRSA) Division of Transplantation and Bureau of Primary Care.

**Kidney Disease in Tennessee**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Patients on Medicare diagnosed with CKD</td>
<td>4,267</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Patients on dialysis</td>
<td>8,929</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Patients with a kidney transplant</td>
<td>10,182</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Patients on the transplant waitlist</td>
<td>2,572</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transplants in 2016</td>
<td>476</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Patients who died while on waitlist in 2016</td>
<td>102</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Average Cost to Medicare**

- Dialysis patient: $85,979
- Transplant after first year: $32,586
- Kidney disease test: $80-$143

**Kidney Disease in the USA**

For additional information, contact NKFadvocacy@kidney.org