

The Honorable Frank Pallone, Jr.
Chairman, Energy and Commerce Committee
2125 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Cathy McMorris Rodgers
Ranking Member, Energy and Commerce Committee
2322 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

RE: *Improving Access to Home Dialysis Act of 2021, H.R. 5426*

Dear Chairman Pallone and Ranking Member McMorris Rodgers:

We, the fourteen undersigned organizations representing kidney patients, healthcare providers, and stakeholders, write to express our united support of H.R. 5426, the *Improving Access to Home Dialysis Act of 2021*. Sponsored by Representatives Bobby Rush (D-IL) and Jason Smith (R-MO), this bipartisan legislation ensures that kidney disease patients have the training and support they need to receive treatment for kidney failure in the safety and comfort of their own homes.

Over 750,000 adults in the US have irreversible kidney failure and require either a transplant or multiple dialysis treatments per week to survive. 85% of those who require dialysis access it in an outpatient dialysis facility. The Medicare End Stage Renal Disease (ESRD) benefit covers the cost of dialysis treatments for patients in kidney failure, however the prevalence of kidney failure and the costs to treat it continue to increaseⁱ. In 2018, traditional Medicare spent \$49.2 billion on patients in kidney failure.ⁱⁱ

Home dialysis has a myriad of benefits: there is less travel to a dialysis unit, the therapy can be done on the patient's own schedule, patients may have better outcomes like improved blood pressure, improved sleep, and a better chance of a successful transplant, and patients can consume a more "normal diet,". In total, these benefits allow the dialysis to be less intrusive in a patient's life and allows more patients to maintain employment, spend time with family, and travel.

It is important that patients be given the choice of a dialysis modality that fits their lifestyle and the supports necessary to succeed on it. Unfortunately, not all patients are able to be maintained on home dialysis without some additional assistance and can end up back on in-center dialysis. These patients could benefit from additional assistance in their home when they start dialysis and after events such as hospitalization. *The Improving Access to Home Dialysis Act* authorizes Medicare to cover trained, professional staff assistance for patients in the home and ensure that all patients are given the education and support they need to utilize this modality if they so choose. It also includes a patient quality of life measure for all dialysis patients and a study on the racial disparities in the utilization of home dialysis.

The undersigned organizations request serious consideration of this legislation, especially in light of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Please reach out to Lauren Drew (lauren.drew@kidney.org) at the National Kidney Foundation with any questions.

Sincerely,

American Society of
Nephrology
American Society of
Pediatric Nephrology
Home Dialyzors United
Baxter International

CVSHealth
DaVita Kidney Care
Dialysis Patient Citizens
IgA Nephropathy
Foundation
Moving Health Home

National Kidney Foundation
Outset Medical
PKD Foundation
Renal Support Network
Satellite Health

ⁱ <https://jasn.asnjournals.org/content/30/1/127>

ⁱⁱ <https://adr.usrds.org/2020/end-stage-renal-disease/9-healthcare-expenditures-for-persons-with-esrd>