



## Priorities for the 118<sup>th</sup> Congress

### Appropriations Priorities

#### **CDC Chronic Kidney Disease Initiative: Increase Funding for Awareness, Screening, and Early Detection**

##### **ASK: Increase current funding incrementally to \$15 million in 5 years.**

The CDC Chronic Kidney Disease (CKD) Initiative supports disease surveillance, helps raise awareness of CKD and its complications, promotes early diagnosis and treatment, and improves the quality of life for people living with CKD. Unfortunately, at its current funding level of \$4.5 million, the reach and impact of this program is limited. NKF supports a significant increase in funding to accelerate and amplify activities to educate the public about their risk for kidney disease, educate clinical professionals, and spur innovation in diagnosis and treatment. By increasing our investment in awareness, early detection, and treatment, we can effectively slow the progression of kidney disease, reduce the economic burden of CKD and kidney failure, and dramatically improve patients' quality of life.

#### **NIH National Institutes of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases: Increase Funding for Research and Innovation**

##### **ASK: Increase kidney-specific funding to reach parity with other research areas.**

Research funded by the National Institute of Diabetes Digestive and Kidney Disease (NIDDK) has led to significant discoveries and improvements in the detection, treatment and understanding of kidney disease. An estimated 37 million American adults have kidney disease, more than 800,000 whom have irreversible kidney failure. NKF calls on Congress to significantly increase its investment in kidney research opportunities, including research into endogenous filtration markers, activities that spur the adoption of race-free equations for estimating glomerular filtration rate (eGFR), and interventions to eliminate racial and ethnic disparities in diagnosis and treatment of CKD. We ask Congress to increase investment in research initiatives that address deficits in CKD diagnosis and treatment, clinical trials that test strategies for the prevention or delay of kidney failure, and research to identify methods to improve the delivery of evidenced-based care, especially in populations usually underrepresented in clinical trials. This research is essential for improving the quality of life for Americans living with kidney disease.

### Legislative Priorities

- **The Living Donor Protection Act (LDPA)**

This bill eliminates discrimination against living donors in the procurement of life, disability, and long-term care insurance and codifies existing Dept. of Labor protections for living donors under the Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA). Insurance companies cannot drop a living donor, change their premiums, or refuse or limit the level of coverage based solely on their status as a living kidney donor.

- **The Improving Access to Home Dialysis Act (IAHDA)**

This bill expands patient choice and removes barriers to accessing home dialysis to ensure that all patients are given the opportunity to succeed on the dialysis modality that best suits their needs and preferences, regardless of their zip code.

- **The Organ Transplantation Transparency, Accessibility, and Reform Act (OTTAR)**

The organ procurement and transplantation system needs additional oversight, transparency, and accountability to ensure it is functioning most efficiently on behalf of patients awaiting lifesaving organs. This bill calls for better data collection and transparency across the transplant system and provides focused support for to enhance transplant access for at-risk and underserved kidney patients.

The National Kidney Foundation looks forward to serving as a resource and an ally. For more information, visit [www.kidney.org/advocacy](http://www.kidney.org/advocacy) or contact Lauren Drew, Director of Congressional Relations, at [lauren.drew@kidney.org](mailto:lauren.drew@kidney.org).