

# Kidney Health Advocacy Day 2022

More than 37 million Americans are living with kidney diseases, which for nearly 800,000 Americans progress to kidney failure, a life-threatening condition for which there is no cure.

Kidney diseases disproportionately impact Black, LatinX, Asian, and Indigenous Americans, are costly to the public, and are associated with the highest risk of severe outcomes from COVID-19.

Today, 50 advocates from the American Society of Nephrology are on Capitol Hill to meet with lawmakers to discuss the need for increased funding for kidney health research at NIDDK, increased funding to accelerate innovation at KidneyX, and to increase access to transplantation by protecting living organ donors with the Living Donor Protection Act.

Congress must support people with kidney diseases by removing barriers to therapies such as transplantation and encouraging research and innovation to better understand and treat kidney diseases.

## Unbalanced

U.S. government invests < 1% of Medicare kidney care costs in kidney research

### Unbalanced Investment

- NIH investments equal < 1% of the cost of care<sup>1</sup>
- \$130 billion Medicare kidney diseases patient costs<sup>2</sup>
- \$680 million NIH investments in kidney research<sup>3</sup>

### Congressional Solutions

- Provide increase for NIDDK that no less than percentage provided the NIH as a whole
- Provide dedicated funding to NIH to study the long term impact of COVID-19 on kidney health
- Avoid harmful stopgap funding bills and government shutdown to sustain research and improve kidney health

### NIDDK Kidney Precision Medicine Project: Paving the Way for New Treatments

- Creating a tissue atlas from human biopsies
- Defining unique targets for novel therapies
- Enabling precision medicine so people with different kidney diseases get individualized treatments

Americans with kidney failure are at the highest risk among Medicare beneficiaries for severe COVID-19 outcomes

50% Hospitalization rate for Americans with kidney failure

20-30% COVID-19 associated mortality for Americans dependent on dialysis

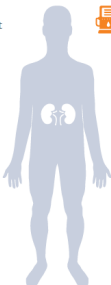
30-50% Hospitalized COVID-19 patients who develop kidney failure, even those without a prior history of kidney diseases

\$0 Dedicated research funding provided NIDDK to COVID-19

## KIDNEYX Accelerating Innovation

**Innovation Accelerator** meeting specific areas of unmet kidney patient need through a series of public-private funded prize competitions. Clearing a path to commercialization for disruptive therapies and technologies by providing better coordination among HHS, NIH, FDA, CMS, and the private sector.

**67 Innovators** awarded prizes by KidneyX in 22 states and 40 congressional districts across 5 prize competitions. **Prevent concept** of incentivizing breakthrough innovations in kidney care through a series of competitive prizes since 2018. **\$28M needed** in FY 23 to support the development of the world's first artificial kidney, sustain KidneyX momentum.



**Nearly 800,000 Americans** have kidney failure and require dialysis or transplantation to live: **there is no cure.** More than one-half of Americans starting dialysis today will die **within 5 years.** Dialysis, the most common treatment for kidney failure, is a complex treatment with core technology over **80 years old.** **\$50 billion** Annual Medicare spending to manage kidney failure. Kidney failure disproportionately affects people of color: Black Americans comprise 13 percent of the U.S. population but represent **33 percent** of Americans living on dialysis.

"Prior to KidneyX there wasn't an interest from the funding community in the kidney space. Now we have seen a 50% uptick in interest, proving that innovation really can take off!"  
— Jeff Ross, MiroMetric CEO  
2019 KidneyX prize winner  
\$43M IPO in 2021

### Funding History

Public	Private
\$15M in congressional funding provided since FY 20	\$25M committed by ASN
\$25M in congressional funding in FY 23 to support the development of the artificial kidney	ASN, private partners, matching Congressional funding



For a complete list of KidneyX Prize Winners, go to: [www.kidneyx.org/PrizeCompetitions/PrizeWinners](http://www.kidneyx.org/PrizeCompetitions/PrizeWinners)



## The Living Donor Protection Act H.R. 1255/S.377

Promoting organ donation and protecting the rights of living organ donors

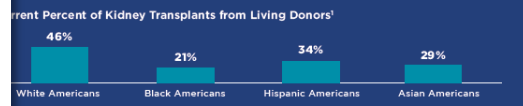
### WE NEED IS NOW the National Organ Shortage

- EVERY 13 MIN. a patient is added to the kidney wait list
- 12 AMERICANS DIE every day waiting for a kidney transplant
- NEARLY 100,000 Americans are on the kidney transplant wait list this year

### The Living Donor Protection Act

- PROTECTS DONORS** Living organ donors are not denied or given reduced coverage or higher premiums for disability, and long-term care plans.
- SECURES EMPLOYMENT** Allows living organ donors to use FMLA time to recover from donation surgery and maintain job security.
- 4 LIVING ORGAN DONORS** experience difficulty securing or paying insurance.<sup>1</sup>
- UP TO 4 WEEKS** before donors typically return to work.

### Removing Barriers To Donation Will Increase Equity In Transplantation



### Transplantation is Cost Effective for Medicare

\$7,300 per year Transplant Patient vs. \$93,200 per year Hemodialysis Patient

Over 10 years, Medicare could save **\$250-\$780MIL** by increasing living donation by 10%<sup>2</sup>

Rodriguez, Abby Swanson Kueley, Esther A. Hernandez, Rebecca Hays, Claire LaPointe Rudow and Prabhakar Baliga. *Transplantation*. 2018; 97(10): 1849-1856. DOI: 10.1093/txso/tjz005  
1. B. J. Massie, A. B. Alajo, J. L. Van Alendroik, K. J. Wilkinger, S. Garozzi-Wang, J. M. Montgomery, R. A. Deshpande, N. A. Muzaffar, A. D. and Segov, D. L. *Prevention Clearing Insurance After Live Kidney Donation*. *American Journal of Transplantation*, 14: 2019-2022. doi:10.1111/ajt.15219  
2. If savings are from leaving privately insured patients off of Medicare and do not reflect cost differences among patients already on Medicare. Estimated rates 45% of new transplant recipients are privately insured. Low estimate reflects Medicare expenditures for dialysis care only; high estimate reflects expenditures for average dialysis patients' total cost of care.

Join the advocacy now with our Call To Action notifying your congressional leaders of the opportunity to support those with kidney diseases here: <https://www.asn-online.org/policy/lac.aspx>