

Senator Charles Schumer
Majority Leader
United States Senate
322 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Senator Mitch McConnell
Minority Leader
United States Senate
317 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Senator Bernie Sanders
Chair
Senate HELP Committee
United States Senate
322 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Senator Bill Cassidy
Ranking Member
Senate HELP Committee
United States Senate
455 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

August 15, 2023

Dear Majority Leader Schumer, Minority Leader McConnell, Chairman Sanders, and Ranking Member Cassidy,

On behalf of the more than 37 million Americans living with kidney diseases and the nearly 800,000 with kidney failure the American Society of Nephrology (ASN) and the National Kidney Foundation (NKF) thank you for your support and dedication to the National Institutes of Health (NIH). Your leadership enables the NIH to conduct groundbreaking medical and scientific research to improve the lives of all Americans, particularly those with kidney diseases.

ASN and NKF strongly support the nomination of Monica Bertagnolli, MD as NIH Director. Dr. Bertagnolli's extensive professional achievements and experience as a scientist, clinical trialist, surgeon, and the Director of the National Cancer Institute make her the ideal nominee for NIH Director. Dr. Bertagnolli will bring a unique perspective and vision as a fellow patient to the role as the NIH continues to catalyze new discoveries, technologies, and innovations for American public health.

Steady, experienced leadership at the helm of the world's leading biomedical innovation ecosystem is necessary to provide hope for and signal to the 37 million Americans living with kidney diseases, the nearly 800,000 thousand Americans with kidney failure, and their families and care partners that new scientific discoveries and therapies are on the horizon.

ASN and NKF urge the Senate HELP Committee and members of the Senate to quickly confirm Dr. Bertagnolli as the next Director of the NIH and look forward to partnering with her to advance the state of kidney care through the world-leading medical and scientific research supported and conducted by the NIH.

Again, thank you for your commitment to improving the lives of the 37 million Americans living with kidney diseases, including the more than 800,000 with kidney failure through research and innovation. To discuss this letter, please contact ASN Manager of Congressional Affairs Zach Kribs (at 202-618-6991 or zkribs@asn-online.org) or NKF Director of Congressional Relations Lauren Drew (at 973-668-2996 or lauren.drew@kidney.org).

Sincerely,



Michelle A. Josephson, MD, FASN
ASN President



Sylvia E. Rosas, MD, MSCE
NKF President