



1725 I Street NW • Suite 510 • Washington, DC 20006
Tel 202-659-0599 • Fax 202-659-0709 • www.asn-online.org

Congress Incorporates ASN Language to Encourage Increased Funding for Kidney Disease Research in FY 2008

The American Society of Nephrology (ASN) submitted language to the US Senate Appropriations Committee to encourage increased support for kidney disease research in fiscal year (FY) 2008. As an accompaniment to the various appropriations bills, the Senate Appropriations Committee includes a committee report that provides additional direction—beyond specific funding requirements—to the myriad departments, agencies, and programs funded under the legislation. According to the Congressional Research Service, “report language and managers’ statements do not have statutory force, departments and agencies are not legally bound by their declarations. These documents do, however, explain congressional intent, and executive branch agencies take them seriously because they must justify their budget requests annually to the Appropriations Committees.”

Senate Report 110-107 – Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and Related Agencies Appropriation Bill, 2008

National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases

Kidney Disease- the Committee encourages the NIDDK to expand the kidney disease research infrastructure through an increased number of kidney research core centers to promulgate collaborative research on a local, regional and national level. In addition, the Committee recommends expanded support for investigator-initiated research projects in five priority areas of greatest importance clinically: acute renal failure, diabetic nephropathy, hypertension, transplantation, and uremic cardiovascular toxicity. The Committee commends the NIDDK for moving forward with the Clinical Trials Cooperative Group and supports collaboration with the renal community to seek new strategies and energize clinical investigation in the above-mentioned areas.

National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute

Kidney Disease- the Committee notes that chronic kidney dysfunction is a unique and important risk factor for the development of cardiovascular disease. Additionally, hypertension, or high blood pressure, is the second-leading cause of end-stage renal disease [ESRD]. Given the significant morbidity and mortality associated with cardiovascular disease among patients with kidney disease, the Committee recognizes the importance of the urgency to examine the relationship between cardiovascular disease and kidney disease. The Committee encourages the NHBLI and NIDDK to work together to develop appropriate basic and clinical research initiatives addressing the pathogenesis of cardiovascular events in patients with kidney disease and exploring therapeutic and preventive interventions. The Committee also encourages the NHBLI to work with the renal community to support ongoing educational programs directed to health professionals, patients and the public to raise the awareness of the relationship between cardiovascular disease, hypertension and kidney disease.