



# PRESS RELEASE

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## AMERICAN SOCIETY OF NEPHROLOGY AND 21 KIDNEY COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS CALL ON CONGRESS TO PROTECT LIVING DONORS

### Highlights

- Today, advocates of the American Society of Nephrology (ASN) and 21 other kidney health professional and patient organizations are meeting with their congressional delegations, calling on them to protect living donors and improve access to transplantation
- Every day, 13 people die in the United States while waiting for a kidney transplant, the optimal therapy for most of the 800,000 people living with kidney failure
- Congress must advance the Living Donor Protection Act (H.R. 1255/S. 377) to remove barriers to living organ donation, increasing access to this important therapy

**Washington, DC (September 28, 2022)** – Members of the American Society of Nephrology (ASN) and 21 organizations representing people with kidney diseases and the health care professionals who treat them will meet with their members of Congress to call for the protection of living organ donors by advancing the Living Donor Protection Act (H.R. 1255/S. 377).

### Kidney Diseases in the United States

More than 37,000,000 Americans are living with kidney diseases, including nearly 800,000 with kidney failure, a life-threatening condition for which there is no cure. Kidney diseases disproportionately impact on Black, Latinx, Asian, and Indigenous Americans and are costly to the American public. Annually, Medicare spends nearly \$140 billion on the care of all Americans with kidney diseases, including more than \$50 billion to manage the care of people with kidney failure.

A kidney transplant is the optimal and most cost-effective therapy for most people with kidney failure, however a national shortage of organs means that 13 Americans die every day while waiting on the nearly 100,000-person kidney transplant wait list. Increasing living donation is important for expanding the availability kidney transplants, yet one in four organ donors report difficulty securing life, disability, and long-term care insurance after providing the gift of life among other barriers.

Sponsored by U.S. Reps. Jerry Nadler, D-NY and Jaime Herrera Beutler, R-WA, and with Sens. Kirsten Gillibrand, D-NY and Tom Cotton R-AR, the Living Donor Protection Act (H.R. 1255/S. 377) ensures insurance companies offering life, disability, and long-term care plans do not deny or limit coverage or raise premiums based on an individual's status as a living organ donor and

codifies that living organ donors can take Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA) time to recover from donation surgery and maintain job security.

Congress must support people with kidney diseases by removing barriers to living donors and increasing access to kidney transplantation. Advancing the Living Donor Protection Act is an important first step for increasing access to this important therapy. Please contact your member of Congress and urge them to take action to support living donors: <https://www.asn-online.org/policy/lac.aspx?ID=2>

**2022 Kidney Community Advocacy Day Partner Organizations:**

American Association of Kidney Patients  
American Kidney Fund  
American Nephrologists of Indian Origin  
American Nephrology Nurses Association  
American Society of Diagnostic and Interventional Nephrology  
American Society of Nephrology  
American Society of Pediatric Nephrology  
American Society of Transplant Surgeons  
American Society of Transplantation  
Children's Organ Transplant Association  
Home Dialyzors United  
IGA Nephropathy Foundation of America  
National Kidney Foundation  
NephCure Kidney International  
Oxalosis and Hyperoxaluria Foundation  
Polycystic Kidney Disease Foundation  
Rare Kidney Disease Foundation  
Renal Healthcare Association  
Renal Pathology Society  
Renal Physicians Association  
Society for Transplant Social Workers  
Veterans Transplant Association

**About ASN** Since 1966, ASN has been leading the fight to prevent, treat, and cure kidney diseases throughout the world by educating health professionals and scientists, advancing research and innovation, communicating new knowledge, and advocating for the highest quality care for patients. ASN has more than 20,000 members representing 132 countries. For more information, visit [www.asn-online.org](http://www.asn-online.org) and follow us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [LinkedIn](#), and [Instagram](#).

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