



PRESS RELEASE

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AMERICAN SOCIETY OF NEPHROLOGY COMMENDS KIDNEY HEALTH CHAMPIONS UPON ENACTMENT OF THE HONOR OUR LIVING DONORS (HOLD) ACT

Washington, DC (February 4, 2026) – The American Society of Nephrology (ASN) commends Senator John Boozman (R-AR), Representative Suzan DelBene (D-WA), Senator Ben Ray Luján (D-NM), and Representative Jay Obernolte (R-CA) for their leadership in enacting the Honor Our Living Donors (HOLD) Act on January 3, 2026—legislation that will improve financial support for living donors.

“Living kidney donors save the lives of their fellow Americans on a daily basis,” said ASN President Samir Parikh, MD, FASN. “These heroes should not face out-of-pocket costs in the process of donating a kidney, and I commend our tireless kidney champions in Congress—Senator Boozman, Representative DelBene, Senator Luján, and Representative Obernolte—for their leadership in helping make that goal a reality through the HOLD Act.”

“Because the HOLD Act simplified the process by which living donors have the costs associated with donating a kidney offset, more Americans who previously faced financial barriers to saving the lives of a loved one, friend, or fellow citizen may now be able to give the gift of life. For the approximately 100,000 Americans on the kidney waitlist, the HOLD Act is a powerful change,” he added.

“I commend Senators Boozman and Luján and Representatives DelBene and Obernolte for their dauntless commitment to removing barriers to optimal kidney care by introducing the HOLD Act and seeing it across the finish line,” stated ASN Transplant Policy Committee Chair Roslyn B. Mannon, MD, FASN. “Thanks to their dedication, the HOLD Act will make a real difference in the lives of people with kidney failure for whom I care, opening a door to the best possible treatment for them: a living donor kidney transplant,” Dr. Mannon, a transplant nephrologist, added.

“I am encouraged by the bipartisan passage of our bill, moving it one step closer to becoming law,” said Senator Boozman. “Easing the burdens of donation and encouraging

eligible Americans to become living donors will save thousands of lives each year. With this legislation, we are taking practical steps to ensure financial considerations do not prevent our families, friends, neighbors and even selfless strangers from meeting this growing and urgent need.”

“No one should be prevented from saving a life because of the bills they incur during the process. This law will help ensure that living donors have the support they need during the donation process and that patients waiting for transplants have a greater chance at receiving one,” said DelBene.

“I’m proud to have helped lead the bipartisan effort to support living organ donors by passing the HOLD Act through appropriations bills,” said Senator Ben Ray Lujan. “Too many families lose loved ones waiting for a transplant, while generous living donors are unable to step forward because of the financial burden. The HOLD Act removes those barriers, ensuring no one has to choose between their livelihood and saving a life. By providing living organ donors with the resources they need, we can increase the number of donors, reduce the transplant waitlist, and save lives.”

“The HOLD Act removes unnecessary financial barriers that can prevent Americans from becoming living organ donors. No one should be forced to choose between saving a life and absorbing thousands of dollars in out-of-pocket costs. By ensuring federal support is based on the donor’s circumstances rather than the recipient’s, this law expands access to transplantation, supports donors, and helps more families get the second chance they are desperately need,” said Representative Obernolte.

While the federal government provides limited financial assistance to living donors, currently, the income of the transplant recipient is primarily assessed to determine eligibility for the program, even though only the donors can receive offsets for costs incurred in the process of donating a kidney. “While a transplant recipient’s insurance covers the cost of donation surgery, donors face thousands of dollars of direct out-of-pocket costs in order to donate an organ for expenses such as dependent care and travel for donor evaluation,” explained Dr. Mannon. “The HOLD Act will streamline the provision of support to living donors by ensuring only the organ donor’s income is tested, allowing federal support for living donors to flow more directly to the people who need it most.”

“We helped shape the HOLD Act from its inception and advocated vociferously for its enactment,” added Dr. Parikh. “Its passage represents a major win not only for ASN, but more importantly, for the 37 million Americans with kidney diseases and the 100,000 people awaiting a lifesaving kidney transplant.”

About the American Society of Nephrology (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 nearly 22,000 members representing 141 countries. For more information, visit www.asnonline.org and follow us on Facebook, X, LinkedIn, and Instagram.

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