



PRESS RELEASE

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AMERICAN SOCIETY OF NEPHROLOGY VOICES SUPPORT FOR STATUTE GALVANIZING ADDITIONAL PROTECTIONS FOR LIVING DONORS

Washington, DC (February 25, 2026) —The American Society of Nephrology (ASN) applauds the forthcoming markup of the Living Donor Protection Act of 2025 by the Senate Committee on Health, Labor, Education, and Pensions (HELP) on Thursday, February 26, 2026. This legislation aims to eliminate known barriers to living donation—the optimal form of therapy for most people with kidney failure—by galvanizing key protections in statute.

Specifically, the Living Donor Protection Act would bar life, disability, and long-term care insurers from discriminating against people simply because they have donated an organ. It would also clarify that living donors qualify for Family Medical Leave Act (FMLA) time off work as they recover from donation.

“Living donors are heroes who deserve more support than the current system provides for them. By eliminating concerns about getting time off work to recover and obtaining insurance in the future, the Living Donor Protection Act is an important step to better support the living donors who save the lives of their fellow Americans on a daily basis,” said ASN President Samir M. Parikh, MD, FASN.

Led in the Senate by Senator Tom Cotton (R-OK) and Senator Kirsten Gillibrand (D-NY) for several Congresses, the bill has always enjoyed strong bipartisan, bicameral support. Thursday’s committee markup represents the most significant progress the Living Donor Protection Act has ever achieved and is a gateway step to being considered by the full Senate.

“Every day I see firsthand the difference donated kidneys make in the lives of my patients. Yet currently, living donors face too many barriers to provide this gift of life at a time when donating a kidney is more important than ever: at least 12 Americans die every day while waiting for a kidney transplant,” stated ASN Transplant Policy Committee Chair and transplant nephrologist Roslyn B. Mannon, MD, FASN.

“I applaud Senator Cotton and Senator Gillibrand for ensuring that obtaining insurance and retaining employment are no longer obstacles to organ donation,” said Dr. Parikh.

“Their tireless leadership on behalf of living donors will achieve a crucial milestone with Thursday’s markup of the Living Donor Protection Act of 2025.”

“I also commend HELP Committee Chair Bill Cassidy, MD, for supporting this important bill’s progress in the 119th Congress by including it in the markup. As a fellow physician who cares for organ transplant candidates and recipients, he has a deep, firsthand understanding of the profound power of living donation in saving lives and I appreciate his advancement of this legislation,” added Dr. Parikh.

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.asn-online.org and follow us on [Facebook](#), [X](#), [LinkedIn](#), [Instagram](#), [Threads](#), and [Bluesky](#).

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