



PRESS RELEASE

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AMERICAN SOCIETY OF NEPHROLOGY CALLS ON CONGRESS TO ADVANCE CRITICAL KIDNEY HEALTH RESEARCH AND SUPPORT LIVING DONORS

Highlights

- Today, leaders of the American Society of Nephrology (ASN) are meeting with members of Congress to request their support for kidney health research and living donors.
- ASN is advocating that Congress provides \$1.8 billion for kidney health research across the federal government, with an initial investment of \$1 billion in FY27 to prioritize kidney health research at the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases (NIDDK).
- ASN is urging Congress to advance the Expanding Support for Living Donors Act and help living donors overcome barriers to donation.

Washington, DC (March 10, 2026) — Today, leaders from the American Society of Nephrology (ASN) are meeting with their congressional delegations to urge bipartisan support for critical kidney health priorities that can accelerate research, transform care, expand access to transplantation, and strengthen support for living donors.

ASN's advocacy delegation, representing kidney care professionals and researchers, from across the country, will highlight two urgent requests for Congress:

- Support the research opportunities identified by the [*Transforming Kidney Health Research Report*](#) by providing an initial investment of \$1 billion in FY27 to prioritize kidney health research at the NIDDK.
- Advance the Expanding Support for Living Donors Act to better support living kidney donors by making donation a cost-neutral act for most Americans, removing barriers that impede living donors' ability to give the gift of life.

Last fall, the kidney community released the *Transforming Kidney Health Research Report*. The report serves as a comprehensive roadmap to accelerate discovery, prevention, and cures for kidney diseases—conditions that affect 37 million Americans and cost the nation more than \$150 billion each year.

“Nephrologists and researchers are on the cusp of breakthroughs that could alter the course of kidney diseases, but we need robust and sustained federal commitment to critical kidney health research to maintain progress,” said Suzanne Watnick, MD, FASN, Chair of the ASN Policy and Advocacy Committee.

“Congress can signify their support of the *Transforming Kidney Health Research Report’s* recommendation of \$1.8 billion for kidney health research across the federal government by providing an initial investment of \$1 billion in FY27 for kidney health research at the NIDDK.”

Living kidney donation is a proven pathway to improve the quality of life and mortality rates for people living with kidney failure. Yet donors often face significant financial hurdles related to donation, such as out-of-pocket costs and lost wages, which can impede potential donors’ ability to give the gift of life. The Expanding Support for Living Donors Act addresses this challenge by expanding the existing reimbursement program for living kidney donors by raising eligibility to 700% of the federal poverty level, increasing and annually indexing the current cap on reimbursement to \$10,000 for inflation. It also requires greater transparency from the Health Resources and Services Administration so appropriators can right-size funding for the program as well as reauthorize it.

“As a transplant nephrologist, I’ve seen firsthand how living donors transform the lives of their recipients,” said Roslyn B. Mannon, MD, FASN, Chair of the ASN Transplant Policy Committee. “The Expanding Support for Living Donors Act honors that selfless act by reducing or eliminating out-of-pocket costs for living donors, making living donation a possibility for more Americans interested in saving the life of others.”

ASN leaders will meet with congressional offices on a bipartisan, bicameral basis to build support for these priorities and reinforce the importance of action to improve kidney health outcomes.

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 138 countries. For more information, visit www.asn-online.org and follow us on [Facebook](#), [X](#), [LinkedIn](#), [Instagram](#), [Threads](#), and [Bluesky](#).

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