



PRESS RELEASE

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AMERICAN SOCIETY OF NEPHROLOGY HEALTH POLICY SCHOLAR PROVIDES TESTIMONY AT HOUSE COMMITTEE HEARING ON IMPROVING KIDNEY HEALTH THROUGH BETTER PREVENTION AND INNOVATIVE TREATMENT

Highlights

American Society of Nephrology (ASN) Health Policy Scholar Suzanne Watnick, MD, FASN testified before the Health Subcommittee of the House Committee on Ways and Means concerning the state of care for kidney failure and possible solutions to improve prevention and treatment for kidney diseases.

Dr. Watnick noted that dialysis care has not seen the improvements and innovation during the past 30 years that other fields of medicine have, and dialysis care is siloed from kidney transplant care.

Dr. Watnick urged the Health Subcommittee to shift focus from high-cost, late-stage crisis management to early detection and prevention, patient-centered care, expanded treatment options and increased research funding.

Washington, DC (March 18, 2026) — Today, the American Society of Nephrology (ASN) testified before the House Committee on Ways and Means Subcommittee on Health hearing on Improving Kidney Health through Better Prevention and Innovative Treatment.

Suzanne Watnick, MD, FASN, Professor of Medicine at the University of Washington and ASN Health Policy Scholar, provided the committee members with insights and answered questions concerning the current state of dialysis care for Americans living with kidney diseases. In her testimony, Dr. Watnick also emphasized the slow pace of change in dialysis care, explained the challenges of Medicare reimbursement and incentives to spur improvements in care, and provided potential solutions to change the status quo, including:

- Calling on the HHS Secretary to establish an Officer of Kidney Health and Transplantation to align incentives, reduce duplicative efforts, and ensure a shared strategy for kidney health in the United States across the myriad HHS agencies with a role in kidney health.
- Promoting appropriate screening in populations at risk for kidney diseases

- Ensuring patient access to new therapies to manage and prevent kidney diseases.

In addition, on behalf of ASN, Dr. Watnick advocated for a dramatic increase in kidney research investment from federal agencies.

“I am honored to represent the ASN, as well as the thousands of American Veterans with kidney disease for whom I have provided care over the past 30 years,” said Dr. Watnick. “I am hopeful that this committee will pursue and support innovation in kidney care for the 37 million Americans living with kidney diseases. Maintaining the status quo betrays their best interests. We must pursue an agenda of innovation, collaboration and choice to change the trajectory of kidney care from end-stage disease management to disease prevention, early detection, and, ultimately, a cure.”

To view the hearing with Dr. Watnick’s testimony, please visit: <https://waysandmeans.house.gov/event/health-subcommittee-hearing-on-improving-kidney-health-through-better-prevention-and-innovative-treatment/>

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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