Leading Kidney Health Organizations Urge U.S. Preventive Services Task Force to Prioritize Chronic Kidney Disease Screening Recommendation

(Washington, DC – November 20, 2026) – Three of the nation's leading kidney health organizations are urging federal action to help detect kidney disease earlier.

As the U.S. Preventative Task Force (USPSTF) convened this week, the National Kidney Foundation (NKF), American Society of Nephrology (ASN), and American Kidney Fund (AKF) thank the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force (USPSTF) and strenuously recommend that the Task Force prioritize the development of an updated screening recommendation for chronic kidney disease (CKD) in at-risk adults.

"Adults at increased risk for kidney disease should be tested as part of routine care, before symptoms appear. That includes people with diabetes, high blood pressure, cardiovascular disease, or a family history of kidney disease," said Marc Hurlbert, Ph.D., chief executive officer of the National Kidney Foundation. "The evidence supports testing based on risk. We urge the Task Force to look closely at the evidence for each of these groups and give primary care teams clear guidance on who should be tested and when."

"37 million American adults are living with kidney diseases, and nearly 9 in 10 are unaware. Kidney diseases often progress silently, leaving patients without opportunities for timely intervention until significant kidney damage has occurred. Yet simple, inexpensive, accurate, and widely available blood and urine tests, including the urine albumin-to-creatinine ratio (uACR), can detect kidney diseases early in people at risk. Early detection opens the door to treatments that offer unprecedented opportunities to slow disease progression and delay or prevent kidney failure," said American Society of Nephrology President Samir M. Parikh, MD, FASN.

"Today's USPSTF meeting represents a critical step forward, and we hope the Task Force acts with urgency to issue a clear recommendation on CKD screening that will not only give clinicians clear guidance, but save many lives," said LaVarne A. Burton, President and CEO of the American Kidney Fund. "Right now, far too many people miss the window for early care and first learn their kidneys are failing when they crash into dialysis, suddenly facing the reality of dialysis or transplant. We have the tools to detect CKD earlier and intervene; these tools need to be put into practice under national guidance."

The Task Force's consideration of CKD screening comes at a pivotal moment for kidney health. In October, HHS released its *Kidney Care National Plan*, establishing a national strategy to improve kidney care by emphasizing prevention, earlier detection, access to effective treatments, and innovation. The Plan specifically identifies the importance of reviewing evidence for CKD screening among people at increased risk, including those with diabetes, hypertension, cardiovascular disease, or a family history of kidney diseases.

A timely, evidence-based USPSTF recommendation on CKD screening would be an important step toward realizing a crucial public health opportunity the Kidney Care National Plan

appropriately identified. Such a recommendation would help shift the nation's approach to kidney diseases from treating advanced illness toward preserving health, identifying health risks earlier, and ensuring that Americans receive effective treatment before irreversible complications develop.

NKF, ASN, and AKF believe that the growing evidence supporting risk-based screening, combined with major advances in kidney-protective therapies, makes this an especially important time for the Task Force to act.

The organizations stand ready to work with the USPSTF, health care professionals, patients and other stakeholders to advance an evidence-based approach to CKD screening that improves early diagnosis, connects people with kidney disease to appropriate care, and helps prevent kidney failure.

The opportunity to change the trajectory of kidney diseases has never been greater. We urge the Task Force to make CKD screening a priority and help ensure that the promise of prevention and early treatment reaches the millions of Americans living with or at risk for kidney diseases.

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