

Monday, February 22, 2016

The Honorable Mark Kirk
524 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Kirk:

On behalf of the American Society of Nephrology's (ASN) nearly 16,000 physicians, scientists, nurses, and other health professionals, thank you for your leadership and dedication to the more than 20 million Americans with kidney disease. Your commitment to helping these Americans is epitomized by your recent introduction of the Living Donor Protection Act of 2016. ASN strongly supports this bipartisan, bicameral legislation and is committed to working with you and your fellow original sponsors Congressman Jerrold Nadler, Congressman Michael C. Burgess, and Senator Kirsten Gillibrand, and the entire kidney and transplant community in advocating for passage of this legislation.

ASN commends your legislation's efforts to protect the thousands of Americans who donate organs to save the lives of family members, friends, and strangers struggling with kidney disease. More than 100,000 Americans are wait-listed for a kidney—and 12 Americans die each day waiting for a kidney transplant. This timely bill will help patients receive the gift of life by eliminating barriers to living kidney donation. Moreover, by increasing transplantation rates, this legislation could save the Medicare program millions of dollars over time.

Your important bill prohibits life, disability, and long term care insurance companies from denying or limiting coverage and from charging higher premiums for living organ donors—changes ASN concurs will enable more Americans to consider living donation. By creating job security for living organ donors and ensuring them time to recover from their donation surgeries, as well as enduring education concerning these new protections, your important legislation will likely help countless Americans receive the gift of life.

ASN stands ready to help you and your staff in any way necessary to pass this legislation and enact these important changes into law. Again, thank you for your leadership and commitment to the kidney and transplant community and to the millions of Americans with kidney disease.

Sincerely,



Raymond C. Harris, MD, FASN
President