

September 20, 2016

The Honorable Ron Kind
1502 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Kind:

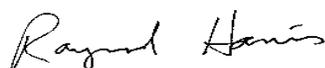
On behalf of the American Society of Nephrology's (ASN) more than 16,000 physicians, scientists, nurses, and other health professionals, thank you for your leadership and dedication to the more than 20 million Americans with kidney disease. Your commitment to helping these Americans is epitomized by your introduction of the Comprehensive Immunosuppressive Drug Coverage for Kidney Transplant Patients Act of 2016.

ASN strongly supports this bipartisan legislation and is committed to working with you and your fellow original sponsor, Congressman Burgess, and the entire kidney and transplant community in advocating for passage of this legislation. More than 100,000 Americans are wait-listed for a kidney, and 12 Americans die each day waiting for a kidney transplant; this crucial legislation to help maintain the health of all transplanted kidneys and transplant recipients by ensuring access to immunosuppressive drugs could not be more timely.

Transplantation is the optimal form of therapy for the majority of patients with kidney failure. It is also the most cost-effective form of therapy for kidney failure. Unfortunately, maintaining access to the immunosuppressive drugs needed to keep transplanted kidneys healthy remains a challenge for far too many Americans who have received the gift of life. By ensuring patient access of these all-important medications, your legislation will help protect Medicare's investment in the transplants and ensure the highest quality of life for people to kidney transplant recipients.

ASN commends you for your leadership on this vitally important issue, and stands ready to help you and your staff in any way necessary to pass this legislation. Again, thank you for your commitment to the kidney and transplant community and to the millions of Americans with kidney disease.

Sincerely,



Raymond C. Harris, MD, FASN
President