

July 9, 2015

Dear Representative:

On behalf of the American Society of Nephrology (ASN), and the more than 15,000 nephrologists, scientists, and other kidney health professionals the society represents, I urge you to vote yes on the bipartisan 21st Century Cures Act (H.R. 6), which will accelerate the discovery, development, and delivery of promising new treatments to patients.

The 21st Century Cures Act is a significant opportunity to spur research and facilitate therapeutic development in kidney care. Increased funding for the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and increased patient perspective in the Food and Drug Administration's (FDA's) regulatory decision-making are crucial components of this legislation that would advance these important goals for patients. As written, this bill is fiscally responsible—it is fully paid for unlike other mandatory spending—and will promote job creation in the research, discovery, and innovation sectors.

ASN also urges you to vote yes on Amendment No. 19, which would ensure traditionally underrepresented groups are included in a report the Director of the National Institutes of Health (NIH) must submit to Congress on the agency's efforts to attract, retain, and develop emerging scientists. ASN is committed to increasing racial, ethnic, and gender diversity in the scientific community, which is currently a poor reflection of the diversity of the U.S. population.

Additionally, the society urges you to vote no on Amendment No. 29. This amendment has the potential to kill the bill entirely. If enacted, the amendment would change the funding stream for the Cures FDA and NIH Innovation Fund from mandatory to discretionary. This change would undermine the very goals of 21st Century Cures by shortchanging discretionary funding for other smart investments in health agencies that help patients and reduce costs.

More than 20 million Americans have kidney disease. Please help them by supporting the 21st Century Cures Act, supporting Amendment No. 19, and opposing Amendment No 29.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



Tod Ibrahim
Executive Director