

April 30, 2024

The Honorable Robert Aderholt
266 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
2413 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Aderholt and Ranking Member DeLauro:

On behalf of the undersigned organizations representing kidney patients, caregivers, and health professionals, thank you for your leadership in improving the health of the 37 million Americans affected by kidney diseases, including the approximately 90,000 adults and 1,100 children on the kidney waitlist. We write in support of the President's fiscal year 2025 (FY 25) budget request for the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA)'s Organ Transplantation Program.

Transplantation is the optimal therapy for most people with kidney failure, providing the best outcomes for patients and the most significant savings to Medicare. Last year, 27,000 kidney transplants were performed in the U.S., far short of the nearly 100,000-person kidney waitlist, leaving 12 Americans to die every day while waiting for a life-saving kidney.

In 2023, Congress unanimously passed the *Securing the U.S. Organ Procurement and Transplantation Network Act* (P.L. 118-14) to increase transparency, accountability, and competition in the management of the U.S. transplant network. This legislation is initiating vital reforms to ensure patients and their families are better served by a higher performing transplant system and ultimately, the number of Americans living with a kidney transplant is increased.

These reforms must be funded to be implemented and fulfill their promise to patients. The \$67 million requested in the FY 25 President's budget is essential to modernize the transplant system while maintaining service to the thousands of patients who need a transplant this year. This funding will be used to ensure governance of the transplant network is independent of contractors operating it, strengthen its core systems, and establish a 21st-century technology infrastructure—which is foundational to the network's operation and a prerequisite for future improvements to our transplant system.

As you prepare the FY 25 LHHS Appropriations bill, we urge you to continue your commitment to implementing the *Securing the U.S. Organ Procurement and Transplantation Network Act* and provide \$67 million for HRSA's Organ Transplantation Program. Our organizations stand ready to collaborate with you, other members of the U.S. Congress, and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to see these vital reforms so the system can more efficiently, transparently, and safely serve the hundreds of thousands of Americans with and awaiting a transplant.

Again, thank you for your leadership. Should you have any questions or wish to discuss our organizations' interest in collaborating to ensure optimal care for kidney transplant patients and candidates, please contact Zach Kribs at zkribs@asn-online.org or Lauren Drew at lauren.drew@kidney.org.

Sincerely,

***American Kidney Fund
American Society of Diagnostic and Interventional Nephrology***

American Society of Nephrology
American Society of Pediatric Nephrology
DaVita
Dialysis Patient Citizens
Federation of American Scientists
Fresenius Medical Care
IgA Nephropathy Foundation
Kidney Care Partners
Kidney Transplant Collaborative
National Kidney Foundation
NephCure Kidney International
Nonprofit Kidney Care Alliance
Northwest Kidney Centers
Organize
PKD Foundation
Puget Sound Kidney Centers
Renal Pathology Society
Renal Physicians Association
Renal Support Network
The Oxalosis and Hyperoxaluria Foundation
The Rogosin Institute
Transplant Recipients International Organization
Waitlist Zero