

# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

January 30, 2023

The Honorable Shalanda Young  
Director  
Office of Management and Budget  
1650 17th St NW  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Director Young:

As you prepare President Biden's Fiscal Year (FY) 2024 Budget, we respectfully request the administration strengthen its commitment to improving the health of millions of Americans living with kidney disease by including \$25 million for KidneyX. This boost in investment would build upon the success of prior KidneyX prize competitions and turbocharge the development of the world's first artificial kidney. This innovation would revolutionize day-to-day life for people with kidney failure, most of whom rely on dialysis, a therapy that accounts for 7 percent of the Medicare budget despite treating 1 percent of the Medicare population.

More than 37 million Americans live with kidney disease. Within that group, more than 800,000 people live with kidney failure, for which there is no cure. The only treatments are dialysis or kidney transplant. Most Americans starting dialysis will die within five years. Though some are lucky enough to receive a transplant, 13 Americans die every day waiting for a kidney to become available to them.

Developing an artificial kidney and other innovations are critical to address the high cost of kidney disease to Medicare and the American taxpayer. Medicare spends approximately \$150 billion annually—over 15 percent of total spending—on patients with kidney disease. Treating kidney failure alone accounts for roughly \$50 billion of Medicare spending each year.

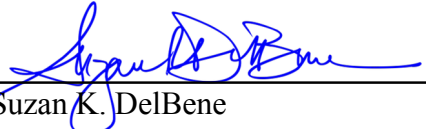
KidneyX is a public-private partnership between the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and the American Society of Nephrology (ASN) tasked with accelerating innovation in the prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of kidney disease. To date, KidneyX has provided 67 awards across 5 prize competitions for innovations including the artificial kidney and xenotransplant.


Congress has regularly demonstrated its commitment to KidneyX by appropriating \$20 million for the program since FY 2020, consistently meeting or exceeding the Administration's budget requests. As a private stakeholder, ASN provided an initial \$25 million to the effort and has committed to fully matching future Congressional funding. In addition, the infusion of KidneyX funding incentivizes private sector investment: winners of the first KidneyX Prize Competition alone raised \$300 million in private capital.

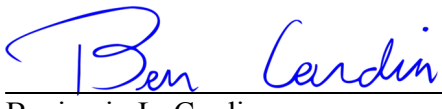
For KidneyX to reach its full potential and accelerate kidney health innovation, the federal government must increase its investment in KidneyX. With more funding, KidneyX could expand the number of innovators it supports and accelerate the development of transformative technologies, particularly the artificial kidney. Therefore, we respectfully request that the Biden administration support this investment by including \$25 million in FY 2024 for KidneyX in the President's Budget.

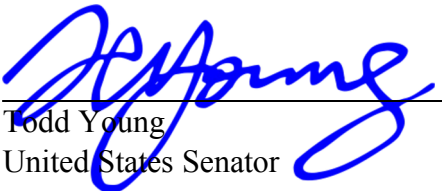
Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

  
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Suzan K. DelBene  
Member of Congress

  
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Larry Bucshon, M.D.  
Member of Congress

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Benjamin L. Cardin  
United States Senator

  
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Todd Young  
United States Senator