

May 22, 2025

Senator Shelley Moore Capito
Chair
Senate LHHS Appropriations Subcommittee
170 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Representative Robert Aderholt
Chair
House LHHS Appropriations Subcommittee
272 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Senator Tammy Baldwin
Ranking Member
Senate LHHS Appropriations Subcommittee
Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Representative Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
House LHHS Appropriations Subcommittee
2413 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chair Capito, Chair Aderholt, Ranking Member Baldwin, and Ranking Member DeLauro:

On behalf of the undersigned organizations representing patients and health professionals who receive and provide kidney care, we respectfully request that you continue to uphold Congress' commitment to investing in kidney disease prevention, diagnosis, and treatment in the Fiscal Year (FY) 2026 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies (LHHS) Appropriations bill by including \$25 million for KidneyX.

This investment would build upon the success of prior KidneyX prize competitions and continue to accelerate the development of the world's first artificial kidney as well as better prevention, diagnostics, and other therapeutic advancements to better address this prevalent chronic condition.

More than 37 million Americans live with kidney diseases. 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 transplantation. Most Americans starting dialysis will die within five years. Though some are lucky enough to receive a transplant, 12 Americans die every day waiting for a kidney to become available to them. Moreover, 90% of affected Americans are unaware they have kidney diseases, underscoring the need to improve prevention and diagnostic capabilities.

Medicare spends approximately \$150 billion annually—over 18 percent of total spending—on patients with kidney diseases. Managing kidney failure alone accounts for approximately \$50 billion of Medicare spending each year, representing 6% of Medicare's budget on 1% of the Medicare population.

KidneyX is a public-private partnership between the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and the American Society of Nephrology tasked with accelerating innovation in the prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of kidney diseases. To date, KidneyX has awarded at least 75 innovators prizes in 23 states and 46 congressional districts across 6 prize competitions for their novel innovations, including the artificial kidney and xenotransplant.

Congress has regularly demonstrated its commitment to KidneyX by appropriating \$5 million for the program annually since FY 2020. Private stakeholders have fully matched that funding by providing an additional \$25 million. Since the launch of KidneyX in 2018, the program has also catalyzed at least \$400 million in capital from private and philanthropic sources toward kidney innovation. For KidneyX to continue accelerating kidney health innovation, financial investment must increase. KidneyX could expand the number of innovators it supports, coordinate and

catalyze investment, and accelerate the development of transformative technologies across prevention, diagnosis, and treatment. Therefore, our organizations respectfully request that you provide \$25 million for KidneyX and report language urging HHS to continue support improved prevention, diagnostics, and other therapeutic advancements through KidneyX under the authority of the Stevenson-Wydler Technology Act to better address this prevalent chronic condition.

Thank you for your leadership, and for your consideration of our request. Should you have any questions or wish to discuss this letter or KidneyX in more detail, please contact Rachel Meyer with the American Society of Nephrology at rmeyer@asn-online.org.

Sincerely,

**Alport Syndrome Foundation
American Kidney Fund
American Nephrologists of Indian Origin
American Nephrology Nurses Association
American Society of Diagnostic and Interventional Nephrology
American Society of Nephrology
American Society of Pediatric Nephrology
Atlantic Dialysis Management Services
Atypical HUS Foundation
Children's Organ Transplant Association
Dialysis Clinic, Inc.
Dialysis Patient Citizens
IgA Nephropathy Foundation
Kidney Care Partners
Kidney Transplant Collaborative
National Kidney Foundation
NephCure Kidney International
Nephrology Nurses Certification Commission
Nonprofit Kidney Care Alliance
Northwest Kidney Centers
Oxalosis and Hyperoxaluria Foundation
PKD Foundation
Renal Physicians Association
Renal Support Network
The Rogosin Institute
Transplant Recipients International Organization
UNOS
Waitlist Zero**