

September 9, 2014

The Honorable Tom Marino
Co-Chair, Congressional Kidney Caucus
410 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Marino:

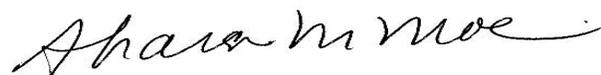
It is with profound appreciation that I thank you on behalf of the American Society of Nephrology (ASN), and the nearly 15,000 physicians, scientists, and other healthcare professionals the society represents, for requesting a Government Accountability Office (GAO) report on the adequacy of federal investments in kidney research.

Kidney disease is a silent killer that destroys lives and families, placing a staggering burden on public health, resources, and society. Most of the more than 20 million Americans with kidney disease remain unaware of its presence. These patients are at high risk to progress to kidney failure that requires dialysis or transplantation, increasing the costs of the Medicare End-Stage Renal Disease (ESRD) Program to the federal government.

Despite this reality, advances in kidney care in the past 25 years have been minimal, especially compared to the dramatic advances for other chronic diseases. A GAO report is an important first step in understanding the current kidney research landscape, including knowledge gaps and areas of research that present the most promising opportunities for scientific advances that could translate to improved kidney care, better health outcomes, and long-term savings for both Medicare and taxpayers.

Thank you again for submitting the request, your leadership of the Congressional Kidney Caucus, and support of ASN. Please do not hesitate to call on the society if there is anything we can do to help you with the GAO, the Kidney Caucus, or in Congress.

Sincerely,



Sharon M. Moe, MD, FASN
President