

July 10, 2013

Dear Senator:

On behalf of the American Society of Nephrology (ASN), I urge you to replace sequestration with a balanced approach to deficit reduction that does not rely on further cuts to medical research and other non-defense discretionary programs.

ASN's 14,000 physicians, scientists, and other healthcare professionals lead the fight against kidney disease. More than 26 million, or 1 in 9, Americans have kidney disease today, a number that is expected to increase with the rise in diabetes and hypertension, the two leading causes of kidney disease.

The good news is that advances in research supported by the National Institutes of Health (NIH) make it possible for patients with kidney disease to live longer, more productive lives—and for kidney professionals to treat and prevent the disease more effectively.

Moreover, medical research generates jobs and drives economic growth:

- More than 80 percent of NIH funding flows back to states and local communities.
- One in 500 US jobs is supported by research.
- Every dollar spent on research generates \$2.60 in economic activity.

The medical research community has already done its part: Congress has reduced funding for NIH since 2010. If the US goes over the “fiscal cliff” in January, NIH would see another cut of \$2.5 billion and the loss of up to 2,300 research grants. Promising research already in progress would be lost, and our position as the global leader in research would be jeopardized, with countries like China doubling down on investment in this area.

Please help preserve America's preeminence in medical research and ensure the continued availability of the highest quality care for patients: support a balanced approach to deficit reduction.

Sincerely,



Bruce A. Molitoris, MD, FASN  
President