



July 15, 2024

The Honorable Cathy McMorris Rogers
Chair, Energy & Commerce Committee

The Honorable Frank Pallone
Ranking Member, Energy & Commerce Committee

The Honorable Brett Guthrie
Chair, Energy & Commerce Health Subcommittee

The Honorable Anna Eshoo
Chair, Energy & Commerce Health Subcommittee

RE: H.R. 6020, the Honor Our Living Donors Act

Dear Chair McMorris Rogers and Ranking Member Pallone,

On behalf of the American Society of Nephrology and the National Kidney Foundation, thank you for advancing the bipartisan Honor Our Living Donors (HOLD) Act (H.R. 6020) through committee. We respectfully request that you urge leadership to consider the bill for action by the full House of Representatives at the earliest opportunity.

This important legislation, introduced by Representatives Suzan DelBene and Jay Obernolte, will remove statutory barriers that currently prevent many potential living donors from receiving financial support and being able to donate a lifesaving organ. This legislation builds on bipartisan progress made by this Congress to improve the U.S transplant system by helping to address the critical shortage of living organ donors.


Under current statutory guidelines, the income of both the living donor and organ recipient must be means-tested for living organ donors to qualify for federal assistance with costs incurred during donation—such as lost wages and travel costs—even though the organ recipient does not receive financial support. The HOLD Act would sensibly amend statute to base eligibility solely on the living donor's income, allowing financial assistance to flow where it is needed most. By easing the financial burden associated with donation, more individuals will be able to give this incredible gift of life.


With over 100,000 Americans currently on the waitlist for an organ transplant, and thousands dying each year while awaiting a donation, removing obstacles to living donation is critically important. Living donor kidneys and livers offer the best outcomes for patients suffering from organ failure. Estimates also show that increasing living donation rates could save Medicare billions annually in avoided dialysis costs.

Given bipartisan backing behind the HOLD Act and its potential to save lives, NKF and ASN, representing people living with kidney diseases and health professionals who care for them, respectfully request that you urge leadership to prioritize action on this legislation at the earliest opportunity.

Thank you for your leadership on this vital issue impacting so many American families. Our organizations appreciate your consideration and look forward to enactment of the HOLD Act. Please do not hesitate to contact Lauren Drew with the National Kidney Foundation at lauren.drew@kidney.org or 973-668-2996, or Zach Kribs with the American Society of Nephrology at zkribs@asn-online.org or 202-618-6991 if you need any additional information as you consider this request.

Sincerely,


Deidra C. Crews, MD, ScM, FASN
President, American Society of Nephrology


Sylvia E. Rosas, MD, MSCE
President, National Kidney Foundation