



## *Nonprofit Kidney Care Alliance*

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July 19, 2016

The Honorable Jason Smith  
1118 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable John Lewis  
343 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Gus Bilirakis  
2112 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kurt Schrader  
2431 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressmen Smith, Lewis, Bilirakis and Schrader:

On behalf of the Nonprofit Kidney Care Alliance (NKCA), I want to voice our support for your legislation, H.R. 5659, the Expanding Seniors Receiving Dialysis Choice Act of 2016. NKCA represents five nonprofit dialysis/kidney care providers: Centers for Dialysis Care; Dialysis Clinic, Inc.; Independent Dialysis Foundation, Inc.; Northwest Kidney Centers; and The Rogosin Institute. Collectively, we serve over 20,000 end stage renal disease (ESRD) patients at more than 280 facilities in 30 states, as well as thousands of patients with chronic kidney disease (CKD).

We believe that all ESRD beneficiaries, regardless of when their condition began, should be able to enroll in a Medicare Advantage plan. All ESRD patients should have a choice in their care, including the type of treatment and what type of insurance plan works best for him/her. If Congress adopts this legislation, there will need to be a carefully constructed set of transition safeguards, particularly in the first few years, when plans would need to expand their provider networks to accommodate a larger number of ESRD beneficiaries. Also, on an ongoing basis, consideration should be given as to whether a new ESRD beneficiary should be entitled to a Special Enrollment Period, or, after they have completed the first three to four months of dialysis, be eligible to apply under the next Annual Enrollment Period, when they can better compare plan costs, benefits and provider networks.

We appreciate your leadership on this issue to increase coverage options for all ESRD patients. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at 202-580-7707 or [info@nonprofitkidneycare.org](mailto:info@nonprofitkidneycare.org).

Sincerely,

Martin Corry  
Executive Director