



June 1, 2020

The Honorable Ron Kind
1502 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Michael C. Burgess, MD
2161 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Kind and Congressman Burgess:

On behalf of the Nonprofit Kidney Care Alliance (NKCA), we write to share our support for your introduction of the Comprehensive Immunosuppressive Drug Coverage for Kidney Transplant Patients Act of 2019 (H.R. 5534). We believe this bipartisan legislation will offer all kidney transplant patients access to critical medications in order to optimize and sustain the life of their transplanted kidney.

NKCA represents six nonprofit dialysis providers: Centers for Dialysis Care; Dialysis Center of Lincoln; Dialysis Clinic, Inc.; Independent Dialysis Foundation, Inc.; Northwest Kidney Centers; and The Rogosin Institute. Collectively, we serve more than 21,000 patients at more than 300 facilities in 30 states. We truly believe that transplantation is the optimal care for kidney patients and keeping people off dialysis is the best outcome for anyone with kidney disease.

For individuals given the opportunity to receive a kidney transplant, access and coverage to immunosuppressant drugs following their transplant is crucial to their recovery and the acceptance and health of the transplanted kidney. Passing this legislation would allow for coverage of these drugs for the lifetime of the organ, eliminating the concern of how to pay for them following the first 36 months, and increasing medication adherence rates. We believe this legislation will ultimately increase successful transplant rates and extend the life of these transplanted organs.

Following the Advancing American Kidney Health Executive Order and subsequent actions to increase access to transplant, we believe it is critical for Congress to pursue policies that work in tandem to ensure the organs continue to be healthy and that transplantation is the lifesaving treatment it is intended to be.

We appreciate your leadership on this issue to decrease the burden for kidney transplant patients and stand ready to further these efforts. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at 202-580-7707 or info@nonprofitkidneycare.org.

Sincerely,

Martin Corry
Executive Director