



November 21, 2023

Joseph R. Biden, Jr.
President
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Biden:

On behalf of the American Society of Nephrology (ASN), thank you for your administration's commitment to the more than 37 million Americans living with kidney diseases. Representing over 21,000 nephrologists, scientists, and other kidney health professionals in 140 countries—including an estimated 90% of kidney care specialists in the United States—ASN applauds the Biden-Harris Administration for prioritizing an improved US organ transplant system.

As a global organization, ASN is committed to improving the lives of the more than 850 million people worldwide who have kidney diseases. People with kidney failure cannot live without their regular dialysis treatments or a functioning kidney transplant (which requires a daily regimen of immunosuppressive drugs). To help people during conflicts and natural disasters, ASN works with other global kidney societies, the World Health Organization (WHO), and Direct Relief, a humanitarian aid organization. We are currently working with these societies, WHO, and Direct Relief to try to help people with kidney diseases, their families, and their nephrologists (and other health professionals) in Israel and Gaza.

Commending your administration for its efforts to evacuate 22 children with cancer from Gaza to the St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, ASN urges the Biden-Harris Administration to extend the same compassion for the estimated 1,050 people with kidney failure who need dialysis to survive and the 500 people with kidney transplants living in Gaza, particularly the approximately 40 children. Without dialysis or access to medicines that prevent transplant rejection, these people will not survive.

Earlier this month, the only known nephrologist in Gaza, Dr. Hammam Alloh, was killed. His death means that each person requiring dialysis is more vulnerable, because administering this life-saving treatment (or managing kidney transplants) requires clinical expertise. Dialysis also requires electricity, large volumes of processed water, dialysis fluids, clean spaces, and a stable environment, while people with kidney transplants require daily access to their medicines.

Together, ASN and the rest of the global kidney community need your administration's advice on how we can best help the people with kidney failure or kidney transplants who are unable to receive life-sustaining care due to the ongoing war. As was the case with St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, the kidney community stands ready to care for all people with kidney failure or a kidney transplant whom your administration can evacuate from Gaza.

Again, thank you. To discuss ASN's request that the Biden-Harris Administration show compassion for the estimated 1,550 people living with kidney failure or a kidney transplant in Gaza, please contact me at mjosephs@bsd.uchicago.edu.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michelle Josephson". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Michelle A. Josephson, MD, FASN
President