

August 18, 2014

ASN Supports New Kidney Transplant Legislation: Living Organ Donor Protection Act

The American Society of Nephrology (ASN) applauds longtime friends of the kidney community Rep. Michael C. Burgess (TX-26) and Rep. Jerrold Nadler (NY-10) for introducing the Living Organ Donor Protection Act (H.R. 5263). ASN supports and is actively advocating for passage of this important legislation.

According to UNOS's August 15, 2014 report, more than 123,375 Americans are waiting for an organ transplant, with 101,124 of those waiting for a kidney transplant. This is why ASN and others in the transplant and kidney spaces believe it critical for Congress to support this life-giving legislation.

In particular, ASN supports this legislation for protecting the thousands of Americans that donate organs to save the lives of family members, friends, and strangers struggling with kidney disease and other transplant needing diseases. This bill prohibits life, disability, and long term care insurance companies from denying or limiting coverage and from charging higher premiums for living organ donors. It would allow living organ donors the opportunity to use FMLA time to recover from the surgeries, and directs HHS to update their materials on live organ donation to reflect these new protections and encourage more individuals to consider donating an organ.

For more details about the bill and how you can get involved to help ASN advocate for congressional support, please visit the ASN Advocacy and Public Policy webpage at <http://www.asn-online.org/policy/>.