

Eugene

Bill would fund dialysis care

As a kidney patient, I want to tell Oregonians about the increasing numbers of Americans who are developing kidney disease.

Because of medical conditions such as obesity, hypertension and diabetes, more than 400,000 people in the United States suffer from kidney failure. Without a kidney transplant or life-saving dialysis treatments up to three times each week, people with kidney failure will die.

April was national Donate Life Month and National Minority Health Month. I think it is especially important during this health awareness time of year to spread the word to increase understanding and education about the rise of kidney disease in our communities. Prevention is possible with early detection and better disease management.

With medical experts currently treating more and more kidney patients and estimated to treat even more patients in the near future, the current Medicare funding system has become outdated. There is legislation pending in Washington, D.C., called the Kidney Care and Quality Improvement Act that would ensure that there was enough money for high-quality dialysis care for patients and for outreach education. It is my sincere hope that our representatives will take notice of this legislation and make reforms that will benefit us all.

KIMBERLY DELANEY

Drain