

More Than 80,000 Kidney Patients and Caregivers Call on Congress:



Photo: Pat Stewart

Several Washington Redskins players roll out Kidney Care Partners nationwide petition with more than 80,000 patient signatures urging Congress to support kidney care reform.

Make Kidney Care Reform a Reality.



Kidney Care Partners (KCP)—a community-wide coalition of patient advocates, dialysis professionals, providers and manufacturers—is committed to working together to improve quality of care for individuals with chronic kidney disease.

BEFORE THE U.S. SENATE NOW is landmark legislative reform of Medicare's End Stage Renal Disease (ESRD) Benefit. This important legislation would bundle the reimbursement rate, provide a critical inflationary update to the kidney dialysis benefit to account for critical staffing demands and services, and establish a provision to educate Americans about kidney disease. This progressive educational provision would help stem the tide of the kidney disease epidemic and help those facing kidney failure better manage their disease conditions.

This is an historic opportunity for the U.S. Senate to help millions of Americans facing chronic kidney disease and kidney failure – including our most vulnerable rural communities and minority populations.

Please join us in this important quest to make comprehensive, thoughtful kidney reform a reality this year.

www.kidneycarepartners.org

The Kidney Community Thanks Congress for its Support of Quality Kidney Care



Kidney Care Partners — and the patients, health professionals, providers, and manufacturers we represent — extends our deepest appreciation to the 191 co-sponsors of the Kidney Care Quality and Education Act (S. 691/H.R. 1193) and all the other Congressional Members who assisted in the passage in the House and Senate of critical reforms of Medicare's End-Stage Renal Disease (ESRD) benefit. The recently passed reforms mark a historic victory for the millions of Americans who have chronic kidney disease (CKD) and kidney failure — and the millions more who are at risk.

We are confident that these reforms will improve the lives of hundreds of thousands of people with kidney disease, as well as the compassionate, hard working men and women who provide their care. The just enacted educational provisions will raise awareness of kidney disease and help those diagnosed with it to delay the onset of kidney failure. We also believe that Medicare's new automatic inflation adjustment will provide a way to assure that dialysis providers are able to attract and retain the most highly qualified caregivers available in an increasingly competitive marketplace.

These reforms were possible because of the commitment and vision of Representatives John Lewis (D-GA) and Dave Camp (R-MI) and Senator Kent Conrad (D-ND), whose Kidney Care Quality and Education Act (S. 691/H.R. 1193) contained these critical reforms.

Thank you for your dedication to improving the lives of individuals with chronic kidney disease and kidney failure. We look forward to continuing our work together to fight kidney disease.

Sincerely,

AMAG Pharmaceuticals, Inc

American Kidney Fund

American Nephrology Nurses Association

American Regent, Inc.

American Renal Associates, Inc.

*American Society of Diagnostic and
Interventional Nephrology*

American Society of Nephrology

American Society of Pediatric Nephrology

Baxter Healthcare Corporation

*Board of Nephrology Examiners Nursing
and Technology*

California Dialysis Council

Centers for Dialysis Care

DaVita, Inc.

Dialysis Patient Citizens

DSI, Inc.

Fresenius Medical Care North America

*Fresenius Medical Care Renal Therapies
Group*

Genzyme

The Kidney Care Council

*National Association of Nephrology
Technicians and Technologists*

National Kidney Foundation

National Renal Administrators Association

Nephrology Nursing Certification Commission

Northwest Kidney Centers

Renal Advantage Inc.

Renal Physicians Association

Renal Support Network

Renal Ventures Management, LLC

Satellite Healthcare

U.S. Renal Care

Watson Pharma, Inc.

**For more information about the fight against kidney disease,
visit www.kidneycarepartners.com.**

MAKE QUALITY KIDNEY CARE REFORM A REALITY!

A PETITION TO CONGRESS TO IMPROVE KIDNEY CARE

A PETITION TO CONGRESS:

More than 26 million Americans suffer from chronic kidney disease (CKD). If untreated, it can lead to kidney failure, known as End-Stage Renal Disease. With the number of individuals with kidney failure expected to double in the next ten years, it is important that Congress pass Medicare program improvements this year. The impact of kidney disease in our country is growing, so now is the time to enact quality-oriented changes and promote greater awareness about this disease.

I urge Congress to act this year to pass Medicare program improvements that will help kidney patients and slow the growth of kidney disease by establishing:

- Programs to educate the public and at-risk communities about the dangers and warning signs of kidney disease
- Pre-dialysis education for individuals with kidney disease to help slow progression of CKD and its complications and prepare for treatment after kidney failure
- Enhanced training for dialysis caregivers
- Program reforms to maintain patient access to high quality care by providing annual inflation adjustments for dialysis like those for all other Medicare providers

I urge Congress to support Americans with chronic kidney disease and kidney failure as well as health care providers through comprehensive kidney care reform.

[A large, dense list of names, representing the signatories of the petition, is visible in the background of the document image.]



www.kidneycarepartners.org

In the coming days, Congress will consider vital Medicare legislation containing landmark reform of the kidney care benefit. The kidney care reform provisions would establish important education and prevention programs to help slow the progression of kidney disease and kidney failure, revise the payment methodology for End Stage Renal Disease (ESRD) treatment, and provide an inflation update to account for critical staffing demands and services.

These reforms are supported by kidney patients and caregivers all across America. In fact, over 80,000 Americans recently signed on to a petition urging Congress to make these long-sought reforms a reality.

Congress has an opportunity to improve kidney care for patients nationwide, including in our most vulnerable minority and rural communities. **The need is great — and the time to act is NOW.**

CONGRESS: PLEASE PASS MEDICARE IMPROVEMENTS FOR KIDNEY CARE IN JULY