



I learned a new word today.

1 in 9 Americans (20 million) suffer from some form of chronic kidney disease that can lead to End Stage Renal Disease (ESRD)—or kidney failure. Diabetes, obesity and high blood pressure are all leading causes.

ESRD is a devastating and complex disease to manage. Without dialysis or a transplant, patients will not survive. There are approximately 341,000 Americans currently on dialysis—and the number is growing.

Congress is now at a crossroads in reforming how Medicare pays for ESRD treatments. We urge Congress to support The Kidney Care Quality and Education Act of 2007—H.R. 1193 and S. 691.

This legislation:

- Strengthens dialysis care through education, quality and prevention initiatives
- Reforms Medicare's payment for dialysis by adding an annual economic update as other Medicare providers receive to reflect the rising costs of providing care
- Extends Medicare Secondary Payer (MSP) from 30 to 42 months thereby ensuring patients have a choice to stay in their individual plan or move to Medicare

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.

Support improving dialysis care in America, ensuring high quality care for vulnerable patients.



www.kidneycarepartners.org

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Kidney Care Partners – Making a **REAL** Difference in Patients' Lives

More than 400,000 Americans of all ages suffer from kidney failure, (or End Stage Renal Disease) – an irreversible condition which is fatal without a kidney transplant or lifesaving dialysis treatments. More than 100,000 new patients are diagnosed each year, many as the result of conditions like high blood pressure and diabetes. An additional 20 million Americans – or 1 in 9 adults – suffer from Chronic Kidney Disease, which untreated, can progress to kidney failure.

Slowing this trend in coming years is dependent on prevention, education and disease management.

Kidney Care Partners – an alliance of patient advocates, dialysis professionals, providers and manufacturers – are working together to raise awareness and improve the quality of care for individuals with kidney failure. That's why Kidney Care Partners supports the **Kidney Care Quality & Education Act**, bipartisan legislation co-sponsored by Senator Kent Conrad (D-ND) and Representatives John Lewis (D-GA) and Dave Camp (R-MI), which would:

- Create public and patient education initiatives to increase awareness about chronic kidney disease (CKD) to help patients learn self management skills.
- Establish a three-year Continuous Quality Improvement Initiative that would reward quality improvements based on measures developed in cooperation with the kidney care community and that would link a three-year update to clinical performance.



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**SUPPORT THE KIDNEY CARE
QUALITY AND EDUCATION ACT.
IMPROVING QUALITY, SAVING LIVES.**



Who has Kidney Disease

TODAY IS WORLD KIDNEY DAY.

Kidney disease affects 20 million Americans alone. And with the increasing prevalence of diabetes, obesity, and unmanaged high blood pressure among Americans — three conditions leading to kidney disease — it is accurate to say we have an epidemic. And kidney disease affects all people of all ages and walks of life.

Many of these disease conditions can be managed, but people must be tested first. Kidney disease is often regarded as a silent disease, since thousands of people learn about their affliction once their kidneys fail.

Kidney Care Partners (KCP), an alliance of patient advocates, dialysis professionals, care providers and manufacturers working together to improve quality of care for individuals with Chronic Kidney Disease,



urges all Americans to get tested so that they might be aware of their potential kidney disease condition.

KCP also supports the bipartisan legislation — Kidney Care Quality and Education Act (S. 691 and H.R.1193) — which is regarded as one of the most progressive pieces of Medicare legislation today. This unique legislation invests in prevention and awareness activities, and creates a three-year Continuous Quality Improvement Initiative.

In recognition of this important day, the kidney community urges our elected officials to sign onto this important legislation and take a stand for the millions of Americans with kidney disease, and the hundreds of thousands of Americans with kidney failure.

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**Support the Kidney Care Quality
And Education Act.**
Improving Quality, Saving Lives.

Are you one of 12,000 Georgians Suffering from Kidney Failure?



DON'T BECOME A STATISTIC.



"Quality health care is a right. It should not depend upon the size of a person's wallet or the digits in a zip code.

The federal government can help ensure that chronic kidney disease sufferers as well as other patients have access to life-saving treatments and are educated about disease prevention. I am working to make that possible."

—Congressman
John Lewis
(D-GA)

More than 12,000 Georgians suffer from kidney failure and require dialysis treatments to survive. The majority of new patients each year are people of color and suffer from the two leading risk factors – high blood pressure and diabetes.

Leaders like Congressman John Lewis are working in Washington to help stop it. Rep. Lewis is a sponsor of the Kidney Care Quality and Education Act – groundbreaking legislation that will improve dialysis care as well as education and prevention initiatives.

What can you do?

- > Get tested for high blood pressure
- > Get tested for diabetes
- > Work with your doctors to manage these conditions
- > Find out if anyone in your family suffers from kidney disease or kidney failure

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Kidney Care Partners (KCP) is a nationwide alliance of patients, doctors, patient advocates, dialysis professionals, providers and manufacturers working together to improve the quality of care for individuals with Chronic Kidney Disease (CKD). Founded in May of 2003, KCP urges all Americans to get tested so that they might be aware of their potential kidney disease condition.