

## **Letter to the editor: Dialysis treatment unaffordable for many**

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As a social worker at Cornerstone Dialysis of DaVita in Southfield and a kidney patient, I am concerned about how upcoming decisions about our federal budget could impact patients.

If the Congressional "Super Committee" fails to identify \$1.2 trillion in savings, a 2 percent Medicare cut will go into effect that would impact dialysis facilities' ability to provide care.

Unlike other Medicare benefits, almost all Americans on dialysis rely on the ESRD benefit for care.

Without the ESRD benefit, many kidney failure patients would not be able to afford dialysis treatment at all and face serious healthcare challenges as a result.

This is why it is important for our lawmakers to recognize that dialysis is different.

Alternative solutions have been proposed that are good for dialysis patients and save billions of federal Medicare dollars.

I hope lawmakers will take a close look at some of the cost-saving ideas that the kidney care community has put forth that protect dialysis patients, while at the same time create the savings that Congress is looking for.

**Leslie Taylor**

**Southfield**