



April 14, 2021

The Honorable Kirsten Gillibrand
U.S. Senate
478 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Jerrold Nadler
U.S. House of Representatives
2132 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Tom Cotton
U.S. Senate
326 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Jaime Herrera Beutler
U.S. House of Representatives
2352 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Senator Gillibrand, Senator Cotton, Representative Nadler, and Representative Herrera Beutler:

On behalf of the Kidney Care Partners (KCP), I want to thank you for the introduction of and continued support for the *Living Donor Protection Act* (S. 377/H.R. 1255) which will protect the rights of living organ donors. The provisions in this legislation will help to eliminate the barriers that individuals face when they seek to become living organ donors.

KCP was founded in May of 2003 as a coalition of patient advocates, dialysis professionals, care providers, researchers, and manufacturers dedicated to working together to improve quality of care for individuals living with kidney diseases. Improving access to transplant has been a priority for KCP. In 2019, KCP released *Kidney Care First: A Framework for Improving Renal Disease Support & Treatment*, which outlines the community's policy priorities for improving the quality of care for patients with chronic kidney disease. Improving access to living kidney donor organs and support for legislation which protects the rights of living organ donors, such as the *Living Donor Protection Act*, was part of that Framework.

In 2020, there were just over 22,800 kidney transplants performed, a drop of 2.5 percent from 2019.¹ With around 93,000 patients on current waitlists² and an average wait time of 5 years,³ more must be done to increase the number of kidney transplants. KCP believes the *Living Donor Protection Act* will help in that effort. Specifically the legislation prohibits insurance companies from denying or limiting coverage and from charging higher premiums for living organ donors, amends the Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993 to include living organ donation as a serious health condition for private and civil service employees, and directs the Department of Health and Human Services to update their materials on live organ donation to reflect these new protections and encourage more individuals to consider donating an organ.

¹UNOS Data on Transplant Trends. <https://unos.org/data/transplant-trends/>. (Accessed April 6, 2021)

²UNOS The Kidney Transplant Waitlist. <https://transplantliving.org/kidney/the-kidney-transplant-waitlist/>. (Accessed April 6, 2021)

³ American Kidney Fund. Transplant Waiting list. <https://www.kidneyfund.org/kidney-disease/kidney-failure/treatment-of-kidney-failure/kidney-transplant/transplant-waitlist/>

Passage of federal legislation is essential to create a basic foundation of protections for living organ donors, given the current patchwork of laws at the state level.⁴

KCP thanks all of you for your work on behalf of individuals living with kidney diseases. We appreciate your dedication to improving access to kidney transplants for patients as well as additional protections for those living organ donors. We are committed to working with you to pass this important legislation this congress.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John Butler', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

John Butler, Chairman

⁴ https://livingdonor.kidneyfund.org/?_ga=2.123244555.1093888870.1617892790-346600715.1579283719&_gac=1.46392789.1617222477.CjwKCAjwu5CDBhB9EiwA0w6sLVNRldzgLHbHiqvbrP12vJp6g0YL58r-rvqp6lF0g23rap1nNqkldhoCyeYQAvD_BwE