

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 24, 2023

The Honorable Robert Aderholt
Chair
House Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Labor, HHS, Education
and Related Agencies
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
House Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Labor, HHS, Education
and Related Agencies
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Aderholt and Ranking Member DeLauro:

As you prepare the Fiscal Year (FY) 2024 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies (LHHS) Appropriations bill, we respectfully request that you strengthen the bipartisan commitment to improving the health of millions of Americans living with kidney diseases by including \$25 million for KidneyX. This investment would build upon the success of prior KidneyX prize competitions and accelerate the development of the world's first artificial kidney. Such innovation will revolutionize day-to-day life for people with kidney failure, most of whom rely on dialysis, a therapy that accounts for 7 percent of the Medicare budget despite treating 1 percent of the Medicare population.

More than 37 million Americans live with kidney diseases. Within that group, more than 800,000 people live with kidney failure, for which there is no cure. The only treatments are dialysis or kidney transplant. Most Americans starting dialysis will die within five years. Though some are lucky enough to receive a transplant, 13 Americans die every day waiting for a kidney to become available to them. Additionally, Black, Hispanic, Asian, and Native American populations are more likely to experience kidney failure, be on dialysis, struggle to find a suitable transplant, and have worse kidney function when dialysis or transplant care is initiated.

Developing an artificial kidney and other innovations are critical to address the high cost of kidney diseases to Medicare and the American taxpayer. Medicare spends approximately \$150 billion annually—over 18 percent of total spending—on patients with kidney diseases. Managing kidney failure alone accounts for roughly \$50 billion of Medicare spending each year.

KidneyX is a public-private partnership between the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and the American Society of Nephrology (ASN) tasked with accelerating innovation in the prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of kidney diseases. To date, KidneyX has provided 67 awards across 5 prize competitions for innovations including the artificial kidney and xenotransplant.

Congress has regularly demonstrated its commitment to KidneyX by appropriating \$20 million for the program since FY 2020, consistently meeting or exceeding the Administration's budget requests. Private stakeholders gave an initial \$25 million to KidneyX and have committed to fully match future Congressional funding through fundraising. In addition, the infusion of KidneyX funding incentivizes private sector investment: winners of the first KidneyX Prize Competition alone raised \$300 million in private capital.

For KidneyX to reach its full potential and accelerate kidney health innovation, the federal government must increase its investment in KidneyX. With more funding, KidneyX could expand

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the number of innovators it supports and accelerate the development of transformative technologies, particularly the artificial kidney.

Therefore, we respectfully request that you provide \$25 million in FY 2024 for KidneyX.

Thank you for your consideration.

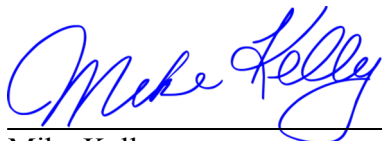
Sincerely,



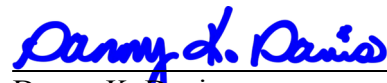
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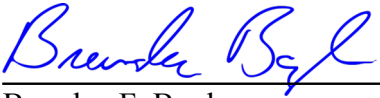


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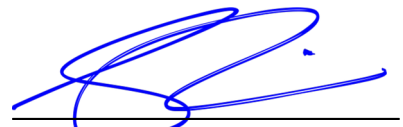
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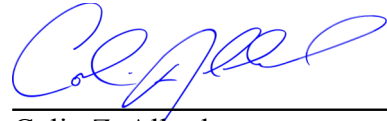


Sharice L. Davids
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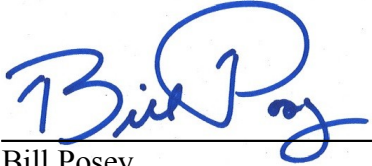
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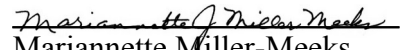
Ilhan Omar
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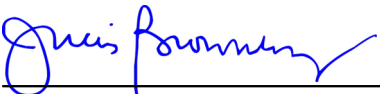
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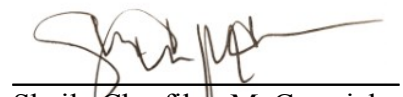
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