



National  
Kidney  
Foundation™

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May 15, 2015

The Honorable Fred Upton  
Chairman  
Energy and Commerce Committee  
2125 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Diana DeGette  
2368 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Upton and Representative DeGette,

The National Kidney Foundation (NKF) commends the House Energy and Commerce Committee on its comprehensive bill to promote improvements in research and faster cures and treatments for those living with chronic diseases. NKF supports the provisions of this legislation that will increase NIH funding, incorporate patient reported data and perspectives into decision making on approvals of new treatments, create a transparent and inclusive process for the development and use of biomarkers and surrogate endpoints, encourage registry development to track the natural history of diseases, and remove barriers to continuing medical education for practitioners. This multipronged approach creates a health research environment more readily able to advance research and turn it into new treatments and cures for patients with life-threatening conditions. This work is particularly important to the 26 million Americans with Chronic Kidney Disease.

An estimated 73 million Americans – one in three adults– are at risk for kidney disease. This is a substantial public health problem, yet it gets far less attention and resources than the scope of the problem warrants. The leading causes of CKD are diabetes and hypertension. However, there are also genetic and rare causes of kidney disease such as glomerulonephritis, polycystic kidney disease, Alport Syndrome, and IgA nephropathy, among others. Kidney disease is a progressive disease and is often asymptomatic until the later stages. People with kidney disease are at greater risk of cardiovascular events, acute kidney injury, and every year more than 100,000 new patients progress to end-stage renal

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disease (ESRD). NKF is optimistic that this legislation will help spur advancements in research, treatments, and ultimately cures for kidney disease and we thank the committee for its work.

Should you have any questions please contact Tonya Saffer, Senior Health Policy Director at [tonya.saffer@kidney.org](mailto:tonya.saffer@kidney.org) or 202.244.7900 ext. 717.

Sincerely,

*Kerry Willis*

Kerry Willis, PhD  
Chief Scientific Officer