



National Kidney Foundation®

Dear Legislator:

I stand with the National Kidney Foundation and urge you to co-sponsor H.R. HR1224/S511, the Living Donor Protection Act introduced by Representative Nadler (D-NY) and Representative Herrera Beutler (R-WA). This bill will protect living organ donors and remove barriers to donation by prohibiting insurance companies from denying or limiting life, disability and long term care insurance to living donors, and from charging higher premiums. The bill also clarifies that living organ donors may use time granted through the Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA) to recover from donation.

Many individuals have experienced higher premiums or denial of coverage insurance based solely on their status as a living organ donor. The risks of living kidney donation are minimal and while long-term effects on donors need further study, most kidney donors go on to live normal healthy lives after organ donation. There is no medical evidence to suggest that insurance companies are at increased financial risk for covering living donors and therefore companies should not charge higher premiums nor deny or limit coverage just because the individual donated an organ. Fear of lack of insurance protection, higher premiums, and loss of job are barriers for someone who wants to donate an organ.

Kidneys can be donated by a living individual in good health. The wait list for a kidney transplant is long and many individuals will die before ever receiving a kidney transplant. There are nearly 100,000 people waiting to receive a kidney transplant. In 2016, more than 19,000 kidney transplants were performed and more than 5,600 of those transplants were from living donors. Living donors make a substantial contribution to increasing the number of transplants performed each year. Congress must act to ensure living donors are protected and that barriers such as fear of job loss and unfair practices by insurance companies are removed.

Those who altruistically donate a kidney to save another person's life should not be discriminated and penalized by insurers or fear loss of their jobs. Please co-sponsor H.R. HR1224/S511, the Living Donor Protection Act.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

[Your Name]

[Your Address]

[City, State ZIP]

[Email]