



July 27, 2020

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Speaker, U.S. House of Representatives  
U.S. Capitol Building, H-222  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Majority Leader, U.S. Senate  
U.S. Capitol Building, S-230  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy  
Republican Leader, U.S. House of Representatives  
U.S. Capitol Building, H-204  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Charles E. Schumer  
Democratic Leader, U.S. Senate  
U.S. Capitol Building, S-221  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Speaker Pelosi, Leader McConnell, Leader McCarthy and Leader Schumer:

On behalf of Kidney Care Partners (KCP) – the nation’s leading coalition of patient advocates, dialysis professionals, care providers, researchers and manufacturers – I am writing to urge you to include in the next stimulus package the Comprehensive Immunosuppressive Drug Coverage for Kidney Transplant Patients Act of 2019 (H.R. 5534/S.3353). The bill would extend Medicare coverage of immunosuppressive drugs for kidney transplant recipients.

ESRD is an irreversible failure of kidney function that is fatal without kidney transplantation or dialysis treatments multiple times per week. Currently, Medicare coverage for immunosuppressive drugs for kidney transplant patients is limited to 36 months following a transplant. Under the bill, kidney recipients whose Medicare benefit and immunosuppressive drugs benefit have ended due to their 36 months running out would be allowed to remain in the program only for the purpose of receiving immunosuppressive drugs. They would be eligible for the extension only if they do not have immunosuppressive drug benefits through other public or private coverage.

Patients who have received a kidney transplant need immunosuppressive drugs for the rest of their lives. These drugs prevent the body from attacking the new organ and trying to destroy the organ which is perceived as a foreign body that needs to be fought against. The current limitation of the benefit can result in beneficiaries skipping doses due to the cost of these drugs. Skipping even one dose can increase the odds of organ failure.

In the long run, the Comprehensive Immunosuppressive Drug Coverage for Kidney Transplant Patients Act of 2019 will result in savings to beneficiaries and taxpayers and improve the quality of life of patients who have received a kidney transplant. It is our understanding that the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) has indicated it will save taxpayers \$70 million over 10 years. KCP hopes Congress will pass the bill and stands ready to work with you and other stakeholders.

Thank you for your consideration and please feel free to contact me directly on behalf of KCP to provide more insight and/or answer any questions on behalf of the kidney care community.

Sincerely,

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

John Butler  
Chairman