



Thursday, September 2, 2021

The Honorable John Cornyn
517 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Thomas Carper
513 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Cindy Hyde-Smith
702 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Kyrsten Sinema
317 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Cornyn, Senator Carper, Senator Hyde-Smith and Senator Sinema:

On behalf of the more than 37 million Americans living with kidney diseases, including nearly 800,000 with kidney failure who must receive a kidney transplant or undergo ongoing dialysis to survive, thank you for your leadership in sponsoring the Patient Access to ESRD New Innovative Devices Act of 2021. The more than 21,000 physicians, scientists, nurses, and health professionals of the American Society of Nephrology (ASN) share your commitment to increasing access to innovative new devices for people with kidney failure and we stand ready to assist the passage of this important legislation.

More than 550,000 Americans are currently undergoing dialysis, including nearly 80,000 people in the states of Arizona, Delaware, Missouri, and Texas combined. More than half of all patients starting dialysis will die within 5 years and though people with kidney failure comprise less than 1 percent of Medicare beneficiaries, management of kidney failure accounts for approximately 7 percent of all Medicare spending.

Despite this high human and taxpayer burden, there have been few advances in the devices used to treat people with kidney failure in decades. As you are aware, at present without a clear and assured mechanism to add innovative new devices to the Medicare End-Stage Renal Disease Prospective Payment System ("the bundle"), there is little incentive to develop novel technologies for people with kidney failure.

Your important and timely legislation would increase patient access to new products that may increase their quality of life or help bring better value to the health care system by removing bureaucratic red tape and allowing new and innovative devices for kidney failure that meet rigorous approval standards set by the Food and Drug Administration to be reimbursed by

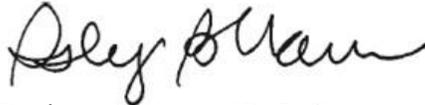
Medicare in the bundle. We commend your leadership to pave the way for new and improved therapies to benefit Americans living with kidney failure.

ASN stands ready to help you and your staff in any way necessary to pass this legislation and enact these important changes into law. Again, thank you for your leadership and commitment to the more than 550,000 Americans undergoing dialysis and to the millions of Americans living with kidney diseases.

Sincerely,



Susan Quaggin, MD, FASN
President



Roslyn Mannon, MD, FASN
Chair, ASN Policy and Advocacy Committee