

ANNA Supports the *Living Donor Protection Act* (H.R. 2923 and S. 1384)

The American Nephrology Nurses Association (ANNA) is a nonprofit organization with a membership of more than 6,000 registered nurses and other health care professionals at all levels of practice. ANNA members work in settings such as chronic kidney disease management, peritoneal dialysis, hemodialysis, continuous renal replacement therapy, transplantation, industry, and government/regulatory agencies.

Living donation is an essential element of organ transplantation, representing the chance for a patient to bypass the deceased donor waitlist, which in many states is five years or more. A transplant from a living donor is a patient's best chance for long-term success.

In 2022, more than 6,400 transplants involved a living donor. Unfortunately, almost a quarter of living donors report discrimination in the rates and provision of life insurance, disability insurance, and long-term care insurance. Despite completing a detailed health screening ensuring they are healthy enough to donate and live healthy lives post-donation, living donors still face difficulty obtaining or maintaining insurance. This barrier is enough to keep many people from considering living donation.

Overview of the *Living Donor Protection Act*

The *Living Donor Protection Act* (H.R. 2923 and S. 1384) was introduced by Senators Kirsten Gillibrand (D-NY) and Tom Cotton (R-AR) and Representatives Jerrold Nadler (D-NY), Troy Balderson (R-OH), Jim Costa (D-CA), John Curtis (R-UT), Diana DeGette (D-CO), Mariannette Miller-Meeks (R-IA), Lisa Blunt-Rochester (D-DE) and Gregory F. Murphy, M.D. (R-NC). This bipartisan legislation would protect living organ donors and promote organ donation by doing the following:

- Remove barriers to living organ donation by prohibiting certain discrimination in insurance and codifying protection for living donors under the Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA).
- Prohibit discrimination in the issuance, price, or benefit levels for life, disability, and long-term care insurance due solely to the individual's status as a living donor.
- Codifying an existing opinion letter issued by the U.S. Department of Labor that includes living donation as a serious medical condition under the FMLA, allowing donors to take time off work for organ donation without fear of reprisal.

Recommendation: ANNA joins with a broad group of national stakeholders in urging Members of Congress to cosponsor the *Living Donor Protection Act* (H.R. 2923 and S. 1384).