



ANNA Supports the Chronic Kidney Disease Improvement in Research and Treatment Act of 2021 (S. 1971 and H.R 4065)

The American Nephrology Nurses Association (ANNA) is a nonprofit organization with a membership of over 8,500 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 and regulatory agencies.

An estimated 37 million Americans live with chronic kidney disease, which can lead to kidney failure or end-stage renal disease (ESRD) – an irreversible condition that is fatal without a kidney transplant or life-sustaining dialysis. Nearly half of those are undiagnosed. ESRD is 3.7 times greater in African Americans, 1.4 times greater in Native Americans and 1.5 times greater in Asian Americans than white Americans.

The Chronic Kidney Disease Improvement in Research and Treatment Act of 2021

Senators Ben Cardin (D-MD) and Roy Blunt (R-MO) introduced the Senate bill (S. 1971) on June 8, 2021. Representatives Terri Sewell (D-AL-7) and Vern Buchanan (R-FL-16) introduced the House bill (H.R. 4065) on June 22. **ANNA joins with Kidney Care Partners in encouraging Members of Congress to cosponsor the bill.** This important legislation would improve the understanding of, and promote access to, treatment for chronic kidney disease by doing the following:

- Expand kidney disease awareness and education by including kidney disease screening to Medicare beneficiary's annual wellness benefit, and increase access to the ESRD Kidney Disease Education benefit.
- Require HHS to submit a report to Congress on disincentives in the Medicare payment systems that create barriers to kidney transplants and post-transplant care. The study would also include best practices on how to increase organ donation rates.
- Require HHS to study the progression of kidney disease and treatment in minority populations.
- Redefine the ESRD payment system to improve accuracy and develop a sustainable pathway to incentivize innovation and reform quality measures used in the ESRD Quality Incentive Program (QIP) to improve patient access to information.
- Expand patient choice of coverage by guaranteeing access to Medigap policies to all ESRD Medicare beneficiaries, regardless of age, and protecting dialysis patients' access to Medicare Advantage (MA) plans.