



ANNA Joins with the Kidney Community in Supporting the *Chronic Kidney Disease Improvement in Research and Treatment Act of 2019* (H.R. 3912 and S. 1676)

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/regulatory agencies.

Each year, more than 124,000 Americans are diagnosed with End Stage Renal Disease (ESRD). The dramatic rise in kidney failure is attributed to an increase of diabetes and hypertension, two skyrocketing chronic diseases and the leading risk factors for ESRD. The only available treatments are a kidney transplant or renal dialysis. Most patients who suffer from ESRD depend on life-sustaining dialysis treatments to survive because transplantation options are extremely limited.

Currently, more than 700,000 Americans suffer from ESRD, nearly 500,000 are on dialysis, and well over 200,000 are living with a kidney transplant. The majority of people with ESRD, regardless of their age, rely on Medicare for dialysis treatments. Ensuring that quality dialysis care remains available is essential to the nation's patient population, as is providing prevention and education resources so that patients can become empowered to avoid ESRD altogether.

ANNA joins the kidney community in supporting the *Chronic Kidney Disease Improvement in Research and Treatment Act of 2019* (H.R. 3912 and S. 1676). The bill, introduced by Representatives John Lewis (D-GA-5) and Vern Buchanan (R-FL-16) in the House and Senators Ben Cardin (D-MD) and Roy Blunt (R-MO) in the Senate, will raise awareness, incentivize innovation, and improve care. Mainly, it:

- Increases access to the Medicare kidney disease education benefit.
- Requires the Comptroller General of the United States to conduct a study on the current utilization of palliative care services in treating individuals with kidney disease.
- Expands kidney care access in underserved areas by adding nephrology health professionals to National Health Service Corps Scholarship and Loan Programs.
- Improves care coordination for individuals on dialysis by requiring hospitals to provide information to their dialysis providers.
- Maintains an economically stable dialysis infrastructure while incentivizing innovation for new drugs, biologicals, devices, and other technologies.
- Improves patient decision making and transparency by consolidating and modernizing quality programs.
- Guarantees access to Medigap policies to all ESRD beneficiaries, regardless of age.

Recommendation: ANNA urges Members of Congress to cosponsor and pass H.R. 3912 and S. 1676 the *Chronic Kidney Disease Improvement Research and Treatment Act* during the 116th Congress