

ANNA Supports the Living Donor Protection Act of 2021 (H.R. 1255 and S. 377)

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.

Approximately 750,000 Americans have irreversible kidney failure and need dialysis or a kidney transplant to survive. More than 500,000 of these patients receive dialysis at least three times per week to replace kidney function. There are nearly 100,000 Americans currently on the waitlist for a kidney transplant.

Depending on where a patient lives, the average wait time for a kidney transplant can be upwards of three to seven years. Living donation is an important aspect of organ transplantation. In 2019, nearly 7,400 individuals were living donors, nearly 40% of all donors that year. Removing barriers to living donation can help expand the number of transplants.

The Living Donor Protection Act of 2021

The *Living Donor Protection Act of 2021* removes 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). **ANNA joins with a broad group of national stakeholders in urging Members of Congress to cosponsor the Living Donor Protection Act of 2021 (H.R. 1255 and S. 377).**

The legislation was introduced on February 23, 2021 by Representatives Jerry Nadler (D-NY-10th) and Jaime Herrera Beutler (R-WA-3rd) and Senators Tom Cotton (R-AR) and Kirsten Gillibrand (D-NY). The bipartisan legislation would protect living organ donors and promote organ donation by doing the following:

- Prohibits life, disability, and long-term care insurance companies from denying or limiting coverage, and from charging higher premiums, for living organ donors;
- Amends the FMLA to include living organ donation as a serious health condition for private and civil service employees, and;
- Directs the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to update their materials on live organ donation to reflect these new protections and encourage more individuals to consider donating an organ.