



February 11, 2020

The Honorable Ron Kind
1502 Longworth House Office Building
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Michael Burgess
2336 Rayburn House Office Building
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Ron Kind and Representative Michael Burgess:

On behalf of Kidney Care Partners (KCP) – the nation’s leading coalition of patient advocates, dialysis professionals, care providers, researchers and manufacturers – I am writing to thank you for the introduction of the Comprehensive Immunosuppressive Drug Coverage for Kidney Transplant Patients Act of 2019 (H.R. 5534). The kidney care community appreciates your leadership in making this legislation possible which would extend Medicare coverage of immunosuppressive drugs for kidney transplant patients.

End Stage Renal Disease (ESRD) is an irreversible failure of kidney function that is fatal without kidney transplantation or dialysis treatments multiple times per week. Currently, Medicare coverage for immunosuppressive drugs for kidney transplant patients is limited to 36 months following a transplant. Patients who have received a kidney transplant need immunosuppressive drugs for the rest of their lives. These drugs prevent the body from attacking the new organ and trying to destroy the organ which is perceived as a foreign body that needs to be fought against. The current limitation of the benefit can result in beneficiaries skipping doses due to the cost of these drugs. Skipping even one dose can increase the odds of organ failure.

KCP applauds your legislation. In the long run, the Comprehensive Immunosuppressive Drug Coverage for Kidney Transplant Patients Act of 2019 will result in savings to beneficiaries and taxpayers and improve the quality of life of patients who have received a kidney transplant. KCP hopes that the Congress will pass the bill and offers our full support while standing ready to work with you and other stakeholders as the bill moves through the Congress.

Thank you for your consideration and please feel free to respond to me directly on behalf of KCP to provide more insight and/or answer any questions on behalf of the kidney care community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Butler", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

John P. Butler
Chairman