June 11, 2013

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

Dear Representative Burgess,

On behalf of the American Nephrology Nurses’ Association (ANNA), a nonprofit professional organization of registered nurses practicing in nephrology, transplantation, and related therapies, I am writing to express our support H.R. 1428, the Comprehensive Immunosuppressive Drug Coverage for Kidney Transplant Act of 2013. We support this act and its goals to extend Medicare coverage of immunosuppressive drugs for kidney transplant patients past the current 36 month coverage cutoff. ANNA’s more than 10,000 members applaud your efforts to ensure that our nation’s kidney transplant patients receive the drugs vital to guaranteeing the success of the transplant and an enhanced quality of life.

ANNA members are intimately involved in the supervision and delivery of care to adults and children with kidney disease. Our members work in a variety of settings including dialysis facilities, transplant centers, Chronic Kidney Disease (CKD) clinics, acute care, ambulatory clinics, and long-term care. ANNA promotes excellence in and appreciation of nephrology nursing so we can make a positive difference for people with kidney disease.

ANNA understands that the Comprehensive Immunosuppressive Drug Coverage for Kidney Transplant Act of 2013 is essential to ensure that kidney transplant patients receive the drug coverage they need to ensure the transplant is successful and to lead healthy, productive lives. ANNA members support the aim of the bill to increase access and make these needed therapies affordable for those who so crucially need it.

We greatly appreciate your leadership in introducing legislation to help Americans who have received kidney transplants and we applaud your efforts to work towards a solution on this important issue. Please contact me or our Washington Representative, Jim Twaddell (202/230-5130; james.twaddell@dbr.com), if you need any assistance.

Sincerely,

Norma Gomez, MSN, MBA, RN, CNN
President