

ANNA Supports the *Living Donor Protection Act* (H.R. 1224 and S. 511)

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.

According to the CDC, there are an estimated 37 million Americans living with Chronic Kidney Disease and almost 750,000 have End Stage Renal Disease (ESRD). For those suffering from kidney disease and ESRD, treatment options are limited to hemodialysis, peritoneal dialysis, or transplantation. However, dialysis is a significant burden on taxpayers, as nearly all patients with kidney failure are Medicare beneficiaries.

Every year 6,000 American become living donors of kidneys, livers, and other organs, per OrganDonor.gov. And the National Kidney Foundation finds there are well over 200,000 Americans living with a kidney transplant and 100,000 waiting for one. But according to a study in the American Journal of Transplantation, in 2014 as many as 27% of living organ donors have difficulty securing or paying for insurance after their procedures because of discriminatory practices.

Overview of the *Living Donor Protection Act*

The *Living Donor Protection Act* (H.R. 1224 and S. 511) was introduced 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). This bipartisan legislation would protect living organ donors and promote organ donation by doing the following:

- Prohibit life, disability, and long-term care insurance companies from denying or limiting coverage or charging higher premiums for living organ donors.
- Amend the *Family Medical Leave Act of 1993* (FMLA) to include living organ donation as a serious health condition for private and civil service employees.
- Direct the U.S. Department of Health and Humans Services to update materials on live organ donation to reflect these new protections and encourage more individuals to consider donating an organ.

Recommendation: ANNA joins with a broad group of national stakeholders in urging Members of Congress to cosponsor the *Living Donor Protection Act* (H.R. 1224 and S. 511).