



ANNA
American Nephrology
Nurses Association

The Honor Our Living Donors (HOLD) Act (H.R. 628 and S. 957)

The American Nephrology Nurses Association (ANNA) is a nonprofit organization representing registered nurses and other healthcare 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.

Background on the Issue

The Living Organ Donation Reimbursement Program, administered by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) helps expand the number of living donors and alleviate the financial strain associated with organ donation and transplant. This program reimburses low-income donors and recipients for expenses related to donation, such as travel, lost wages, and child/dependent care. Unfortunately, current eligibility rules disqualify donors based on the recipient's income, denying essential financial assistance and limiting access to life-saving care for those desperately in need. Federal legislation is needed to address this gap in the program and reduce economic barriers to organ donation, particularly for low-income individuals.

Overview of the Legislation

The *Honor Our Living Donors (HOLD) Act* (H.R. 628 and S. 957) is led in the House by Representatives Suzan DelBene (D-WA-01) and Jay Obernolte (R-CA-23) and in the Senate by Senators Ben Ray Lujan (D-NM) and John Boozman (R-AR). The legislation would do the following:

- Eliminates income-based eligibility requirements for organ recipients and allows additional low- and middle-income donors and recipients to receive up to \$6,000 in federal assistance for donation-related expenses (*e.g., travel, lodging, meals, lost wages, childcare and eldercare costs*).
- Delivers overall savings to Medicare by expanding access to transplant and post-transplant care, recognizing that Medicare allocates \$150 billion—or approximately 18% of the program's total spending—on individuals with kidney diseases.
- Mandates an annual report to Congress evaluating the impact of the Living Organ Donation Reimbursement Program.

Recommendation: ANNA supports the *Honor Our Living Donors (HOLD) Act* (H.R. 628 and S. 957) and encourages Members of Congress to cosponsor the legislation.