September 25, 2025

Majority Leader John Thune
511 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Speaker of the House Mike Johnson
521 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Minority Leader Chuck Schumer
322 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Minority Leader Hakeem Jeffries
2267 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

RE: *The Living Donor Protection Act of 2025*

Dear Majority Leader Thune, Minority Leader Schumer, Speaker Johnson, and Minority Leader Jeffries:

On behalf of the over 100,000 individuals currently awaiting a lifesaving organ transplant, the following twenty-one patient and professional organizations express their support for the *Living Donor Protection Act*. We respectfully request that you expedite the passage of this bi-partisan, cost-neutral legislation.

In the House, two bills, both sponsored by Representatives Don Bacon (R-NE) and Jerry Nadler (D-NY)**:**

- H.R. 4583 *Living Donor Protection Act*, prohibits discrimination against living donors obtaining life, disability, and long-term care insurance; and
- H.R. 4582 *Living Donor FMLA Protection Act*, clarifies that donors are eligible for unpaid time off from work via the Family Medical Leave Act to complete their donation and recovery. This provision codifies an August 2018 opinion letter issued by the U.S. Department of Labor addressing living donation.

In the Senate, S. 1552, sponsored by Senators Tom Cotton (R-AR) and Kirsten Gillibrand (D-NY), maintains the unified approach from previous Congresses and provides the same comprehensive protection against insurance discrimination and FMLA job protection.

Every day, 17 people die on the transplant waitlist; 14 of them were waiting for a kidney. Of those on the kidney transplant wait list, only 27,759 received a kidney transplant in 2024, with only 6,418 coming from living donors. Patients wait an average of 2-5 years for a kidney transplant, but in some states the wait can be as long as 10 years. Of those on the liver transplant wait list, only 11,458 received a liver transplant in 2024, with only 604 coming from living donors.

A transplant from a living donor has the best chance for long-term success. **Unfortunately, almost a quarter of living donors report discrimination in the rates and provision of life insurance, disability insurance, and long-term care insurance.** Living donors complete a detailed health screening ensuring they are healthy enough to donate and live healthy lives post-donation and yet still face difficulty obtaining or maintaining insurance.

Transplant is the gold standard of care for kidney failure. It improves patient quality of life and extends life expectancy while also costing Medicare less than long-term dialysis. Liver transplant is the

treatment of choice for patients with end-stage liver disease as well as certain liver cancers. Removing barriers to living donation can help expand the number of transplants and save lives.

The LDPA is bipartisan, cost-neutral, and non-controversial. It is supported by the American Council of Life Insurers and over twenty patient and provider organizations. Previous legislation in the 118th Congress was cosponsored by 226 bipartisan Representatives and 44 bipartisan Senators. We are urging Congress to pass this legislation in the 119th Congress.

Please contact Lauren Drew at the National Kidney Foundation (lauren.drew@kidney.org) if you need additional information.

Sincerely,

Alport Syndrome Foundation

American Association for the Study of Liver Diseases

American Kidney Fund

American Liver Foundation

American Nephrology Nurses Association

American Society of Nephrology

American Society of Nephrology

American Society of Pediatric Nephrology

Children's Organ Transplant Association

Dialysis Patient Citizens

DOVE (Donor Outreach for Veterans)

IGA Nephropathy Foundation

Kidney Transplant Collaborative

National Kidney Foundation

NephCure

Nonprofit Kidney Care Alliance

North American Transplant Coordinators Organization

PKD Foundation

Renal Physicians Association

Renal Support Network

Society for Transplant Social Workers

Transplant Recipients International Organization (TRIO)