



# American Society of Pediatric Nephrology

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## SUPPORT THE LIVING DONOR PROTECTION ACT

Children with chronic kidney disease suffer tremendously from impaired growth and development. Chronic dialysis in children can be life-saving, but it is fraught with technical challenges and substantially reduced duration and quality of life.

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*Living donation helps children minimize the time on dialysis and often avoid it altogether.*

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Renal transplantation provides opportunities for children to grow and develop normally so they can thrive into adulthood. Children often receive kidneys from parents and other family members, and even family friends or community members. **The Living Donor Protection Act supports a crucial need in protecting our living donors, who willingly give of themselves to promote the long-term health and well-being of children.**

This legislation will allow greater access to kidney transplant by:

- ❖ **Protecting Donors.** This legislation will prohibit insurance companies from denying or limiting coverage and from charging higher premiums for living organ donors' life, disability and long-term care insurance plans.
- ❖ **Ensuring that a living donor will not be discriminated against or lose their job.** The legislation clarifies that the Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA) does apply to living donors, making sure that those who donate their kidney to someone in need can return to work after recovering from surgery.
- ❖ **Educating potential donors.** The legislation directs the Secretary of Health and Human Services to update the agency's materials related to living donation to appropriately reflect the changes the legislation will make to current policies.

This legislation will be reintroduced in the 116<sup>th</sup> Congress on a bipartisan, bicameral basis by Representatives Jerry Nadler (D-NY) and Jamie Herrera Beutler (R-WA) and by Senators Tom Cotton (R-AR) and Kirsten Gillibrand (D-NY). Please consider cosponsoring this important legislation when it is introduced.