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*Executive Director/CEO*

February 9, 2007

Rep. Charles Norwood  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2452 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Norwood,

On behalf of the American Association of Kidney Patients (AAKP), I am writing in strong support of the Living Kidney Organ Donation Clarification Act (H.R. 710) that you introduced with Rep. Jay Inslee (D-WA).

The American Association of Kidney Patients (AAKP) ([www.aakp.org](http://www.aakp.org)), founded in 1969, is the nation's only kidney patient-led and managed education and advocacy organization for people with kidney disease. Each year AAKP serves over one million kidney patients.

Right now, 70,000 Americans are waiting for a kidney transplant. Through paired kidney donation, two or more sets of intended living donors and candidates are matched to find biologically compatible donors.

History was made last November when doctors at Johns Hopkins performed the first-ever quintuple kidney transplant. Twelve surgeons simultaneously operated for ten hours on ten different people – successfully transplanting organs into five individual patients in need of a new kidney.

Unfortunately, there is apparently some ambiguity under current law whether such donations violate the National Organ Transplant Act (NOTA) prohibition against “valuable consideration.” AAKP believes H.R. 710, and its companion bill S. 487 introduced by Sen. Carl Levin (D-MI), will clarify that kidney paired donation is fully consistent with the spirit of NOTA.

AAKP is very grateful for your leadership on this legislation that could literally save thousands of lives.

Sincerely,

Kris Robinson  
Executive Director/CEO

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