



*The Voice Of All Kidney Patients*™

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1102 Longworth HOB  
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Kris Robinson  
*Executive Director/CEO*

Dear Chairman Rangel,

We congratulate you on House passage of the CHAMP Act (H.R. 3162). We want to particularly commend you on the bill's provisions (Title VI, Subtitle C) that improve care for End Stage Renal Disease (ESRD) patients while reducing costs.

The American Association of Kidney Patients (AAKP) is the only non-profit organization founded by kidney patients, for kidney patients. AAKP serves over one million Americans annually who have either lost kidney function (and live with dialysis or transplant) or have chronic kidney disease. Our organization is dedicated to serving the needs, interests, and welfare of all kidney patients and their families.

AAKP supports the House provisions regarding the ESRD program. The bill calls for: chronic kidney disease demonstration projects; coverage for patient education services; training for dialysis technicians; and a MedPAC report assessing accessibility and payment for home dialysis. These improvements in the quality of care are critical to maintaining the health of our kidney disease population.

The provisions related to the bundling of erythropoietin stimulating agents (ESAs) help ensure that patients are neither overdosed nor underdosed. The doctor/patient relationship is the most important factor in determining proper ESA dosing and H.R. 3162 allows for the necessary risk adjustments to protect patients. We are especially supportive of quality incentive payments that would link payments to outcomes. Rewarding providers for good care will improve the lives of kidney patients throughout the country.

None of the ESRD provisions increases program costs and the entire subtitle saves \$3.4 billion. It is rare to enact policy that improves quality of care and saves money, but this is one of those opportunities. H.R. 3162 is good for kidney patients. It shows that quality of patient services can be preserved – and actually enhanced – while achieving savings.

Sincerely,

Kris Robinson  
Executive Director and CEO