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Executive Director/CEO

VIA FACSIMILE

United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Re: REQUEST for COSPONSORSHIP of S. 1062: WILLIAM H. FRIST GIFT OF LIFE CONGRESSIONAL MEDAL ACT

Dear Senator,

On behalf of the American Association of Kidney Patients, I urge you to show your support of organ donation by signing on as a cosponsor of the *William H. Frist Gift of Life Congressional Medal Act*. This important bill, introduced by Senators Dick Durbin (D-IL) and Chuck Grassley (R-IA), would establish a Congressional commemorative medal to recognize the selfless act of organ donation.

Over 93,000 people are waiting for an organ transplant – more than 70,000 of those on the waiting list for a kidney. It is only through the amazing generosity of donors and their families that those on the transplant waiting list can receive the gift of life. The *William H. Frist Gift of Life Congressional Medal* would honor the life-saving heroism of living donors and the families of deceased donors.

The legislation, named in honor of former Senate Majority Leader, and transplant surgeon, Dr. William H. Frist, would establish a nonprofit fund administered by the United Network for Organ Sharing (UNOS) to be used to design, produce, and distribute a Congressional medal to organ donors or a family member of a donor. The legislation would incur absolutely no cost to the Federal Government.

The American Association of Kidney Patients (www.aakp.org) was founded in 1969, and is the nation's only education and advocacy organization for people with kidney disease both patient-led and managed. Each year, AAKP serves over one million Americans who have either lost kidney function (and live with dialysis or transplant) or have chronic kidney disease.

The American Associations of Kidney Patients and its members hope you will show your support of the many donors and their families who give others a second chance at life by signing on as a cosponsor of S. 1062, the *William H. Frist Gift of Life Congressional Medal Act*. Thank you for considering supporting this legislation.

To sign on as a cosponsor, or if you have specific questions, please contact Mayra Alvarez at 202-224-2152 or mayra_alvarez@durbin.senate.gov (Durbin); or Kathy Nuebel Kovarik at 202-224-3744 or Kathy_Nuebel@grassley.senate.gov (Grassley).

Sincerely,

Kris Robinson
Executive Director and CEO
American Association of Kidney Patients

May 16, 2007

American Association of Kidney Patients
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