



NATIONAL KIDNEY FOUNDATION®

of Michigan

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September 22, 2023

Dear Members of the Michigan House of Representatives- Health Policy Committee:

The National Kidney Foundation of Michigan stands in strong support of Senate Bill 384 prohibiting discrimination against living donors obtaining disability, long term or life insurance.

Every day, 17 patients die on the transplant waitlist; 12 of them were waiting for a kidney. Of the over 100,000 patients nationally on the transplant wait list, only 25,499 received a kidney transplant in 2022. Of those over 25,000 kidney transplants, only 5,863 of them came from living donors. In Michigan, 1,948 patients are awaiting kidney transplant, while only 513 transplants were provided in 2022 and 74 patients died awaiting kidney transplant.

Patients wait an average of 3-5 years for a kidney transplant, but in some states the wait can be as long as 10 years. Transplant is the gold standard of care for kidney failure. It improves a person living with kidney disease quality of life and extends life expectancy while also costing Medicare and Medicaid less than long-term dialysis.

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. Living organ donors save lives, and they deserve protection against discrimination in the pricing and availability of life, disability, or long-term care insurance. The Living Donor Protection Act (bill 384) prohibits discrimination against living donors obtaining life, disability, and long-term care insurance.

The National Kidney Foundation of Michigan supports living donation to improve the quality of life for individuals living with kidney disease and implementing Bill 384 will reduce barriers for living donation, therefore, we gladly seek support for the Living Donor Protection Act.

Sincerely,

Linda Smith-Wheelock
CEO and President