



NATIONAL KIDNEY FOUNDATION®

of Michigan

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House Committee on Tax Policy -Cora B. Anderson House Office Building, Room 521
124 North Capitol Avenue, Lansing, MI 48933

To the Honorable Chair Neeley, Vice-Chair Farhat, Vice-Chair VanWoerkom, and esteemed Committee Members:

The National Kidney Foundation of Michigan is dedicated to the awareness, prevention, and treatment of kidney disease. One of our priorities is to remove barriers to transplantation through advancing policies that benefit patients across the care continuum and the heroic living donor community. Organ donation is the optimum treatment for people with kidney failure, but the supply of transplantable kidneys does not meet the growing demand. Currently, 2,112 Michiganders are waiting for a lifesaving kidney transplant and not everyone will receive one¹. In 2023, 62 people died while waiting for a transplant². A way to combat this shortage is through living organ donation.

Unfortunately, prospective donors can face financial barriers to donation through unexpected expenditures like lost wages, childcare, lodging, and meal costs not covered by insurance. By providing a tax credit, living donors will assist in this financial barrier to donation. That is why the NKFM and National Kidney Foundation, supports HB 4361 to remove one more barrier so anyone who wants to become a living donor can.

Here are some key facts on the state of kidney disease: (1) 17 people each day die on the waitlist because they can't get a transplant; (2) Living organ donors go on to live long healthy, active lives; (3) Transplantation is a cost-effective treatment for people with kidney disease leading to better health outcomes; (4) Living donors can shorten someone's time on the waitlist; and (5) Transplantation significantly lowers health care cost vs. dialysis.

Today the National Kidney Foundation of Michigan, National Kidney Foundation, our Voices for Kidney Health Advocates, and the kidney community ask you to support HB 4361 to support living organ donors of the future. I thank the committee for their time and consideration of this legislation. For questions, please reach out to Valerie Rinck, National Kidney Foundation, Valerie.Rinck@Kidney.org or Crystal D'Agostino, National Kidney Foundation of Michigan cdagostino@nkfm.org.

Sincerely,

Linda Smith-Wheelock
President and CEO

¹ Organ Procurement and Transplant Network (OPTN) (2024)

² Ibid