



July 12, 2017

The Honorable Kevin Brady
Chairman, Ways and Means Committee
House of Representatives
1102 Longworth Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Richard Neal
Ranking Member, Ways and Means Committee
House of Representatives
1102 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Brady and Ranking Member Neal,

The Alliance for Home Dialysis (Alliance) is pleased to support legislation, H.R.3164, which would amend the Social Security Act to expand access to home dialysis. H.R. 3164 was introduced by Representatives Diane Black (R-TN) and Suzan DelBene (D-WA) and has been incorporated into H.R.3178, the Medicare Part B Improvement Act. H.R. 3164, would allow for home and dialysis facility as originating sites for patients' monthly clinical assessment via telehealth.

The Alliance is a coalition of kidney dialysis stakeholders, representing patients, clinicians, providers, and industry that works to promote policies that facilitate treatment choice for individuals in need of dialysis, and to address systemic barriers that limit access to the many benefits of home dialysis. These issues are particularly important given how many Americans are currently living with ESRD and depend on dialysis for survival.

We appreciate that H.R 3164 would add home and dialysis facility as originating sites for home dialysis patients' clinical assessment via telehealth. Permitting patients and their physicians the option to participate in telehealth encounters, which include not only video interaction but also the transmission of clinical data through technologies like remote patient monitoring, may encourage more patients to adopt home dialysis as a treatment option.

In addition to promoting modality choice, expanding access to telehealth will benefit current patients on home dialysis. Travel to a physician's office or a dialysis facility to see their doctor is often difficult for those patients for whom travel would require medical transportation. Minimizing the need for patients to travel to a qualifying site to see their doctor also would support those actively employed or seeking employment without sacrificing the appropriate level of clinical interaction.

Once again, we are pleased to support this initiative and look forward to continue working with you as the bill moves through the legislative process. If you have any questions, please contact Michael Spira at michael@homedialysisalliance.org or 202-466-8700.

Sincerely,

Stephanie Silverman
Executive Director



Participating Organizations (2017)

American Association of Kidney Patients
American Nephrology Nurses Association
American Society of Nephrology
American Society of Pediatric Nephrology
Baxter
Cleveland Clinic
DaVita
DEKA Research and Development
Dialysis Clinic, Inc
Dialysis Patient Citizens
Fresenius Medical Care
Greenfield Health Systems
Home Dialyzors United
International Society for Peritoneal Dialysis, North American Chapter
Medical Education Institute
National Kidney Foundation
Northwest Kidney Centers
NxStage Medical
Outset Medical, LLC
Renal Physicians Association
Satellite Healthcare
Southwest Kidney Institute
The Rogosin Institute
TNT Moborg International Ltd.