



October 25, 2021

The Honorable Bobby L. Rush
U.S. House of Representatives
2188 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Jason Smith
U.S. House of Representatives
2418 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Rush and Congressman Smith:

On behalf of the Alliance for Home Dialysis – a coalition of kidney dialysis stakeholders representing patients, clinicians, providers, and industry – thank you for your efforts to expand access to home dialysis for patients living with end-stage renal disease (ESRD), including through important provisions contained in the newly introduced *Improving Access to Home Dialysis Act*.

As you know, home dialysis offers significant clinical, socioeconomic, and quality of life advantages for ESRD patients, such as increased survival rates, better preservation of residual renal function, greater autonomy and flexibility in daily life, and reduced need for dependence on transportation, in addition to being more conducive to financial stability because it allows many patients to continue to work. Clinicians and policy leaders broadly recognize that home dialysis is not sufficiently utilized in the United States, due to impediments to accessing pre-dialysis nephrology care and education, lack of a robust support system to empower patients, and poor access to innovative technologies that may improve a patient's quality of, and access to, a wider array of kidney care modalities.

With that in mind, policy measures – such as your bill – that tackle barriers to access are critically important. All ESRD patients should be afforded comprehensive education and support both before and after kidney failure, and patients should be empowered to participate in their own healthcare decision-making. We are especially supportive of policies that remove barriers to access in underserved communities and communities of color as these populations are disproportionately affected by kidney disease and are less likely to have access to important information, resources, and treatment options.

We look forward to working with you to help improve the quality and utilization of home dialysis in the United States, and hope you will call on us as a resource where we may be helpful.

Sincerely,

Kelly Ferguson
Policy Director



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American Society of Nephrology*
American Society of Pediatric Nephrology
Baxter*
Centers for Dialysis Care
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