

**Statement**  
**of the**  
**Alliance for Home Dialysis**  
**for the**  
**United States House Energy and Commerce Health Subcommittee**  
**“Made in America: Strengthening Domestic Manufacturing and the Health Care Supply Chain”**

**June 11, 2025**

The Alliance for Home Dialysis appreciates the opportunity to contribute a statement for the record in connection with the House Energy and Commerce Health Subcommittee hearing: Made in America: Strengthening Domestic Manufacturing and the Health Care Supply Chain. We are encouraged by the Subcommittee’s interest in this important issue, which is a top concern for patients with End-Stage Renal Disease (ESRD), especially those on home dialysis. A resilient, domestic supply chain protects national health security and ensures that vulnerable patients receive the consistent, high-quality care they need.

The [Alliance](#) is a coalition of kidney dialysis stakeholders representing individuals with kidney failure, clinicians, providers, and industry. We work to drive policies that empower patient choice in dialysis and break down systemic barriers that limit access to home dialysis. Every person with kidney failure should have a fair opportunity to choose home treatment when it's right for them and their care team. Home dialysis enables patients to take charge of their health and promotes independence and self-determination.

About 815,000 Americans are currently living with kidney failure, and about 555,000 are on dialysis, whether in a dialysis center or on a home dialysis modality.<sup>1</sup> Kidney failure falls within the top ten causes of death in the US, but home dialysis can make a positive difference for both patient quality of life and health outcomes. Home modalities deliver striking benefits: they improve health outcomes, reduce travel and time burdens, enable patients to maintain employment or fulfill caregiving and family responsibilities, improve mental health, and expand freedom to engage in social activities, hobbies, and preserve independence.

Over the past few decades, home dialysis uptake in the US has grown—in large part due to policy changes that incentivize access and government support for the modality. We are grateful for

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.kidneyfund.org/all-about-kidneys/quick-kidney-disease-facts-and-stats>

lawmakers' support and that of the Trump Administration. From 2012 to 2022, the latest years we have data for, the percentage of incident (newly diagnosed) ESRD patients performing home dialysis increased by over 70% from 8.5% to 14.5%.<sup>2</sup> This growth is encouraging, but makes it even more important than ever to consider how natural disasters and supply chain interruptions can negatively impact home dialysis patients in particular.

Performing home dialysis requires specific medical supplies, like dialysis fluid, needles, tubing, and a dialysis machine, which are delivered to the patient's home at set intervals. In addition, home dialysis requires access to safe water, electricity, and ideally, the internet to allow for contact with the care team. Natural disasters can impede access to all of these things and negatively impact a patient's ability to perform their treatment. Sometimes this means patients have to go in-center to perform dialysis during the time of the disaster; other times, this is not even an option due to impossibilities in travel, challenges due to evacuations, and more.

In fact, during last year's Hurricane Helene, Baxter, a major manufacturer of both IV and dialysis solutions (and Alliance member) was significantly impacted by flooding. The factory was ultimately closed for a number of days. While Baxter moved quickly to get production lines back up and running, immediately collaborated with the FDA and other agencies, and took other action to address the devastating damage, this experience serves as a good reminder that disasters are unpredictable, can directly impact patients, and must be prepared for as best as possible.

We also want to share specific insights with you from home dialysis patients who have been impacted by natural disasters:

- Martine from California explained to us that she experienced a time when her local drinking water was unsafe to use. Due to this, she had to switch the type of fluid bags that she used for her treatments. When the water became safe again, she had a very difficult time switching back to her preferred supply option and received thousands of the incorrect item to her home.
- Shameka from Florida told us that she has lived through two hurricanes performing home dialysis with both flooding and a loss of power. No one could get to her neighborhood to deliver her home dialysis supplies and she was even forced to go in-center for treatment.
- Pedro from South Carolina said that he has been impacted by the saline shortage due to Hurricane Helene and has also had a difficult time accessing needles.

Thankfully, there are options to address many of these challenges, and Congress is in a position to do so. One major item would be federally incentivized programs to increase buffer stock, or an inventory surplus of key home dialysis supplies that manufacturers or retailers would keep either on hand or virtually managed to meet unexpected need during emergencies. Buffer stock can meet

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<sup>2</sup> <https://usrds-adr.niddk.nih.gov/2024/end-stage-renal-disease/2-home-dialysis>

critical gaps during supply chain disruptions and provide a lifeline for patients who want to continue their treatments as prescribed.

In addition, the Alliance is supportive of vendor managed inventory contracts between suppliers and the federal government, which would help manufacturers respond immediately to natural disasters and ensure that access to critical supplies is not disrupted. Because it is difficult to physically stockpile fluids and other necessary home dialysis supplies, due to expiration dates, these contracting arrangements can be particularly helpful as they allow suppliers to ramp up production to meet agreed upon targets at exactly the right time.

We commend your commitment to safeguarding the health and dignity of Americans affected by kidney disease, particularly in times of crisis. The Alliance for Home Dialysis stands ready to collaborate with the Health Subcommittee to advance policies that prioritize the needs of all patients.