

**Statement**  
**of the**  
**Alliance for Home Dialysis**  
**for the**  
**United States House Ways and Means Health Subcommittee**  
**“Improving Kidney Health Through Better Prevention and Innovative Treatment”**

**March 18, 2026**

The Alliance for Home Dialysis is sincerely grateful to the House Committee on Ways and Means and the Health Subcommittee for holding this historic hearing on “Improving Kidney Health Through Better Prevention and Innovative Treatment.” We extend our gratitude to full committee Chairman Jason Smith and Ranking Member Richard Neal, and Health Subcommittee Chairman Vern Buchanan and Ranking Member Lloyd Doggett, for their leadership in elevating kidney disease and, critically, the needs and voices of patients before Congress.

This hearing marks an important and timely moment for the kidney community. By convening this discussion, the Committee demonstrates a strong commitment to confronting one of the nation’s most serious, costly, and life-altering chronic health conditions. Just as importantly, this hearing recognized that improving kidney health requires not only better prevention and innovation, but also a sustained focus on patient-centered care, patient choice, and the policies needed to help patients live fuller, healthier, and more independent lives. The Alliance applauds the Committee for shining a national spotlight on these issues and for creating space for a thoughtful, bipartisan conversation about how Congress can do better for Americans living with chronic kidney disease and kidney failure.

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.

However, too many patients still do not receive timely education about their treatment options. Many patients who could benefit from home dialysis face system barriers that make that choice harder to access. And too often, outdated incentives and gaps in policy steer patients toward in-center treatment even when home dialysis may be the better fit for their clinical needs, personal goals, and daily lives.

This hearing made clear what patients and providers have long understood: home dialysis can be transformative. For many patients, peritoneal dialysis (PD) and home hemodialysis (HHD) offer more flexibility, greater independence, and a stronger sense of dignity and control. Home dialysis can help people remain employed, continue their education, care for family members, and stay active in their communities. It can help treatment fit into a person's life, rather than forcing a person's life to revolve entirely around treatment. This hearing affirmed that patient choice matters and that federal policy should do more to make meaningful choice real.

As Congress considers next steps, the Alliance urges lawmakers to continue working with stakeholders, including the Alliance for Home Dialysis, to advance practical, patient-centered policies that empower patients and expand access to home dialysis. In particular, we encourage attention to the following priorities:

- **Expand kidney disease education early in the disease course.** Patients need clear, repeated, and accessible education before they reach a crisis point. Congress should strengthen the Kidney Disease Education (KDE) benefit by expanding eligibility, allowing more clinicians to furnish the service, and reducing or waiving cost-sharing so patients can access education earlier and more consistently.
- **Remove barriers to digital health tools and remote monitoring.** Telehealth and remote patient monitoring can help clinicians support patients at home, identify complications earlier, and improve safety, confidence, and treatment retention. Congress should encourage CMS to modernize policies so these tools can be used appropriately in home dialysis care.
- **Support a patient-centered pathway for staff-assisted home dialysis.** Some patients need temporary or occasional assistance to begin and sustain home dialysis safely.

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

Congress should pursue a thoughtful approach to staff-assisted home dialysis that is clinically appropriate, carefully implemented, and designed to expand access without unintended consequences.

At its heart, home dialysis is about listening to and empowering patients. Not every patient will choose home dialysis, and not every modality is right for every individual. But every patient deserves a fair opportunity to understand their options and to choose the treatment path that best aligns with their medical needs, their family responsibilities, and their goals for living well. That principle should be at the center of federal kidney policy.

The Alliance for Home Dialysis again thanks Chairman Smith, Ranking Member Neal, Chairman Buchanan, Ranking Member Doggett, and all the members of the Committee and Subcommittee for holding this historic hearing and for their leadership on kidney health. We welcome the opportunity to work with lawmakers and staff on both sides of the aisle to build on this momentum and advance policies that strengthen patient choice, expand access to home dialysis, and improve care for Americans living with kidney disease and kidney failure.