

July 15, 2009

The Honorable Fortney "Pete" Stark  
Chairman, Subcommittee on Health  
Committee on Ways and Means  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Rep. Stark:

On behalf of the millions of individuals and families affected by chronic kidney disease and thousands of kidney transplant recipients, we are writing to express our support for the inclusion of the immunosuppressive drug coverage in Section 1232, the "Extended Months of Coverage of Immunosuppressive Drugs for Kidney Transplant Patients and other Renal Dialysis Provisions," contained in the America's Affordable Health Choices Act of 2009 (H.R. 3200). This provision will assist individuals who have trouble affording their immunosuppressive medications, who thus risk losing their transplanted kidney and return to dialysis. It also would enable more patients to consider transplantation as a treatment option, as many stay on dialysis knowing they cannot afford the medications.

We will continue to build support for the concept of lifetime immunosuppressive coverage, as expressed in HR 1458, through grassroots advocacy efforts and other means.

Sincerely,

American Association of Kidney Patients  
American Society of Pediatric Nephrology  
American Society of Transplant Surgeons  
American Society of Transplantation  
National Kidney Foundation  
United Network for Organ Sharing