



## **H.R. 8875, *Improving Home Dialysis Act*** **Rep. Carol Miller (R-WV)**

### **Background:**

- **More than 500,000 patients** nationwide live with end-stage renal disease (ESRD) and receive dialysis, which can have a devastating impact on their health and lifestyle.
- **Only 15% of ESRD patients use home dialysis**, though it has significant health benefits.
  - Home dialysis results in **faster recovery** after treatment with **fewer side effects, improved cardiac status, and increased life expectancy**.
- ESRD patients may be **prevented from self-dialyzing at home** due to lack of experience or sustaining physical injuries that inhibit home dialysis.
- **Staff-assisted home dialysis** offers education and assistance services from trained professionals to help ESRD patients engage in home dialysis.
  - One staff-assisted home dialysis program **helped 93% of senior participants** over the age of 70 to **dialyze safely and independently at home**.
- **Renal mental health professionals** help ESRD patients navigate the logistical complexities and emotional toll of dialysis and promote kidney transplantation referrals.
  - Patients diagnosed with ESRD are **three times more likely to experience serious psychological distress** and **twice as likely to have anxiety and depression** compared to the general population.
  - Dialysis facilities employ qualified renal mental health professionals, but this care is **not consistently available to home dialysis patients**.
- While Medicare covers some support services to facilitate home dialysis care, **Medicare does not reimburse for staff-assisted home dialysis or renal mental health support services** for home dialysis patients.

### **H.R. 8875, *Improving Home Dialysis Act*:**

- **Facilitates patient access to home dialysis** by allowing Medicare to reimburse for additional home dialysis support services including:
  - **Staff-assisted home dialysis services** to assist with home dialysis education and instances of physical limitations for as many as 20 days a year.
  - **Renal mental health support services** to better support the transition to home dialysis and promote kidney transplantation for as many as 4 times in the first 60 days a patient dialyzes at home.