

# **Cosponsor H.R. 1270, The Living Donor Protection Act!**

## **Ensure Organ Donors have the insurance and support they need!**

*Supported by several transplant and health organizations, including: The American Society of Nephrology, The American Society of Transplant Surgeons, The American Society of Transplantation, The National Kidney Foundation, The Renal Physician Association, and Waitlist Zero*

Dear Colleague:

We invite you to join us in cosponsoring H.R. 1270, the Living Donor Protection Act, a bill to promote organ donation and protect the rights of living organ donors.

Every year, thousands of living Americans donate kidneys, livers, and other organs to save the lives of family members, friends, and strangers struggling with chronic, life-threatening illnesses.

An organ donor's decision to undergo these invasive procedures not only saves lives, it saves money. Organ donation saves Medicare millions of dollars every year. It cuts health care costs as much as two-thirds by reducing the need for dialysis and other expensive medical interventions to treat chronic illnesses.

Yet, after taking this heroic step to save a life, living organ donors have difficulty taking medical leave or buying insurance. Because many employers treat organ donation surgery as "elective," many living donors are considered ineligible for Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA) and cannot take unpaid leave to recover or be sure their job will be waiting for them. Further, many living organ donors experience difficulty securing or paying for insurance after their procedures.

Rather than putting roadblocks in the way of living organ donation, we should encourage more individuals to become living donors and protect the rights of those donors to receive the insurance and medical leave they need. Our bill achieves those goals in three easy, low-cost ways:

- 1) Prohibits life, disability, and long term care insurance companies from denying or limiting coverage and from charging higher premiums for living organ donors;
- 2) Clarifies that living organ donors may use FMLA time to recover from the surgeries and procedures involved in their donation; and
- 3) Directs HHS to update its materials on live organ donation to reflect these new protections and encourage more individuals to consider donating an organ.

If you are interested in cosponsoring or learning more about this important legislation, please contact Melissa Connolly ([melissa.connolly@mail.house.gov](mailto:melissa.connolly@mail.house.gov)) in Mr. Nadler's office or Jessica Wixson ([jessica.wixson@mail.house.gov](mailto:jessica.wixson@mail.house.gov)) in Ms. Herrera Beutler's office.

Sincerely,

Jerrold Nadler  
Member of Congress

Jaime Herrera Beutler  
Member of Congress