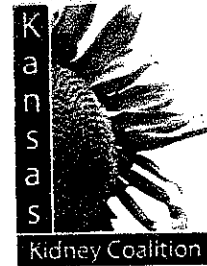


January 22, 2019

Representative Jene Vickrey
Chair
House Insurance Committee
300 SW 10th Ave. Room 281-N
Topeka KS 66612-1504



Dear Chair Vickrey and Committee Members:

The Kansas Kidney Coalition supports HB 2041, which prohibits life insurance companies from denying coverage or increasing the premium to an individual solely based on their being a living organ donor. Over the past 10 years, approximately 440 Kansans have given the gift of life by being a living organ donor. Because of the rigorous health screening that occurs during the evaluation process of becoming a living donor, donors are often healthier than the U.S. general population and yet research has shown that 25% of living donors face discrimination such as higher premiums or denial of insurance coverage. HB 2041 would prohibit discrimination in the pricing or availability of specific types of insurance policies.

Many Americans are waiting for kidney transplants, with a cost far higher for Medicare annually than the price of a transplant. For every transplant, Medicare can save \$55,000 annually over the cost of dialysis.

Those who wish to be living donors should not have barriers in their way to discourage them from donating to people who are waiting for transplants. HB 2041 would help eliminate one of those barriers.

Thank you for considering our comments, and please support HB 2041.

Sincerely,

Wendy Funk Schrag

Wendy Funk Schrag, LMSW, ACSW
Kansas Kidney Coalition Chair
316.841.5245
Wendy.schrag@fmc-na.com