

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

**Cosponsor H.R. 3867, Legislation to Encourage Early Detection of Chronic
Kidney Disease**

Dear Colleague:

Chronic Kidney Disease (CKD) is a progressive illness, which if caught early, can significantly delay onset of end stage renal disease (ESRD), which benefits patients and helps keep Medicare's costs down. Today, 5.5% of all Medicare beneficiaries are diagnosed with CKD in Stages 1-4. At the same time, research indicates that over 30 million adults, or 15% of the population, have CKD, and 90% of them do not know it.

Medicare can do more to help providers detect CKD earlier in the process. That's why we have introduced H.R. 3867, which establishes a pilot program that encourages providers to test patients with certain risk factors to help improve outcomes for those at highest risk for CKD. This bill will demonstrate that early detection of CKD, combined with effective and coordinated care, can both improve clinical outcomes and lower health care costs. Early detection allows the introduction of patient education and medical management that can slow CKD's progression and reduce associated co-morbidities.

In addition to improving care and outcomes for patients with CKD, this pilot has the potential to delay enrollment into the Medicare ESRD program. ESRD, the most advanced stage of CKD, is characterized by kidney failure, which requires dialysis treatment several times per week or a kidney transplant. Medicare's ESRD program, which has over 675,000 patients nationwide, provides access to needed services for patients with ESRD and allows patients of any age suffering from this debilitating illness to enroll in the program.

Medicare's ESRD program has been very successful in providing care for those who need it and it has saved millions of lives since its creation over 40 years ago. At the same time, Medicare's ESRD program represents a significant portion of Medicare's budget as 6% of the Medicare budget is spent on 1% of the total Medicare population. In addition, patients with CKD also often have other conditions like diabetes, cardiovascular disease, and/or hypertension. What's more, CKD is the 9th leading cause of death in the U.S. and it disproportionately affects communities of color.

If you are interested in becoming a cosponsor please contact Taylor Hittle (Mullin) at Taylor.hittle@mail.house.gov, John Caison (Holding) at john.Caison@mail.house.gov, Dennis Sills (Butterfield) at dennis.Sills@mail.house.gov or Katie Wright(Sánchez) at katie.wright@mail.house.gov.

Thank you,



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