

# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

April 30, 2024

The Honorable Robert Aderholte  
Chair  
House Committee on Appropriations  
Subcommittee on Labor, HHS, Education, and  
Related Agencies  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro  
Ranking Member  
House Committee on Appropriations  
Subcommittee on Labor, HHS, Education, and  
Related Agencies  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Aderholt and Ranking Member DeLauro:

As you prepare the Fiscal Year (FY) 2025 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies (LHHS) Appropriations bill, we respectfully request that you renew the bipartisan commitment to improving the health of millions of Americans living with kidney diseases by including \$25 million for KidneyX. This investment would build upon the success of prior KidneyX prize competitions and continue to accelerate the development of the world's first artificial kidney and other technologies in an under-invested sector. We further request that your committee task the Advanced Research Projects Agency for Health (ARPA-H) to coordinate with KidneyX in developing artificial organ technologies, building upon the innovation derisked by KidneyX and revolutionizing day-to-day life for people with kidney failure.

More than 37 million Americans live with kidney diseases. Within that group, more than 800,000 people live with kidney failure, for which there is no cure. The only treatments are dialysis or kidney transplant. Most Americans starting dialysis will die within five years. Though some are lucky enough to receive a transplant, 13 Americans die every day waiting for a kidney to become available to them. Additionally, Black, Hispanic, Asian, and Native American populations are more likely to experience kidney failure, be on dialysis, struggle to find a suitable transplant, and have worse kidney function when dialysis or transplant care is initiated.

Developing an artificial kidney is critical to address the high cost of kidney diseases to Medicare and the American taxpayer. Medicare spends approximately \$150 billion annually—over 18 percent of total spending—on patients with kidney diseases. Managing kidney failure alone accounts for over \$50 billion of Medicare spending each year, representing 6% of Medicare's budget on 1% of the Medicare population.

KidneyX is a public-private partnership between the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and the American Society of Nephrology (ASN) tasked with accelerating innovation in the prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of kidney diseases. To date, KidneyX has provided 75 awards across 6 prize competitions for innovations including the artificial kidney and xenotransplant.

Congress has regularly demonstrated its commitment to KidneyX by appropriating \$25 million for the program since FY 2020. Private stakeholders have fully matched that funding by providing an additional \$25 million. Since the launch of KidneyX in 2018, the program has also catalyzed approximately \$400 million in capital from private and philanthropic sources toward kidney innovation.

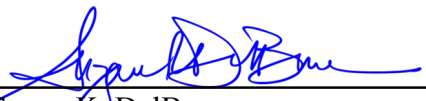
For KidneyX to continue accelerating kidney health innovation, financial investment must increase. As KidneyX has derisked innovation for bioartificial kidneys for ARPA-H, with more funding, KidneyX could expand the number of innovators it supports, coordinate and catalyze investment, and accelerate the


development of transformative technologies. Furthermore, ARPA-H has a huge role to play in prioritizing research in this area to truly revolutionize organ transplantation.


Therefore, we respectfully request that you provide \$25 million for KidneyX and report language urging ARPA-H to prioritize research on artificial organ technologies.

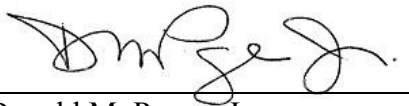
Thank you for your consideration.

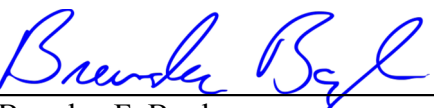
Sincerely,

  
Suzan K. DelBene  
Member of Congress


  
Larry Bucshon, M.D.  
Member of Congress

  
Danny K. Davis  
Member of Congress

  
Donald M. Payne, Jr.  
Member of Congress

  
Brendan F. Boyle  
Member of Congress

  
Lizzie Fletcher  
Member of Congress

  
Joe Wilson  
Member of Congress

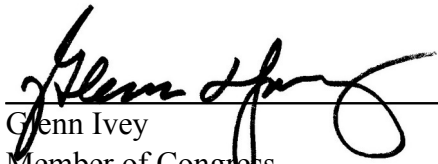
  
Stephen F. Lynch  
Member of Congress



Sharice L. Davids  
Member of Congress



Earl L. "Buddy" Carter  
Member of Congress



Glenn Ivey  
Member of Congress



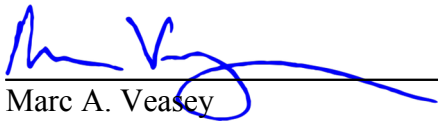
Marilyn Strickland  
Member of Congress



Eleanor Holmes Norton  
Member of Congress



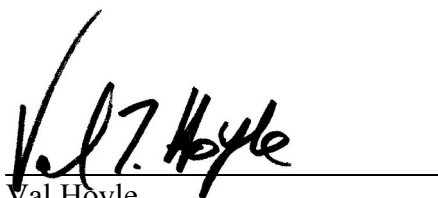
Bill Foster  
Member of Congress



Marc A. Veasey  
Member of Congress



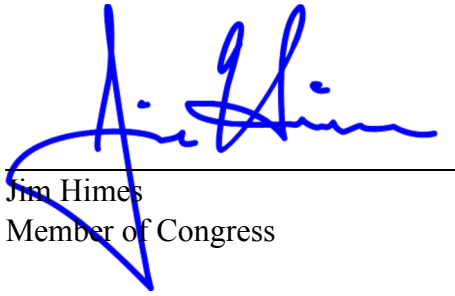
Bill Posey  
Member of Congress



Val Hoyle  
Member of Congress

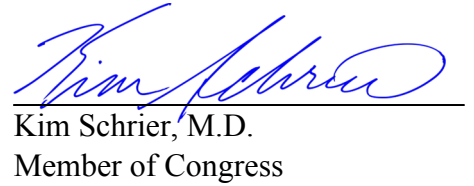


Ilhan Omar  
Member of Congress



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Jim Himes  
Member of Congress



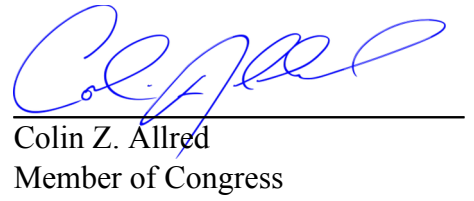
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Kim Schrier, M.D.  
Member of Congress



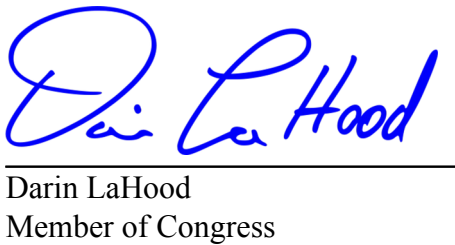
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Angie Craig  
Member of Congress



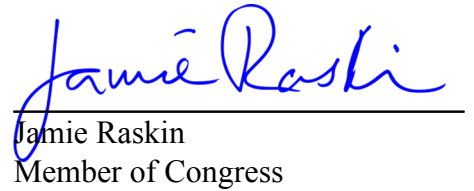
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Colin Z. Allred  
Member of Congress



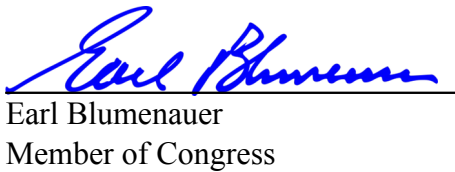
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Darin LaHood  
Member of Congress



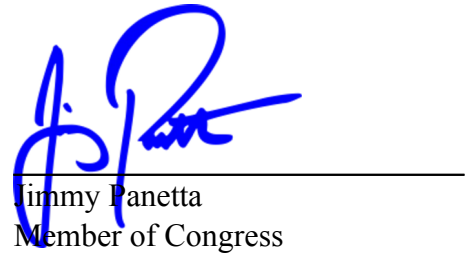
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Jamie Raskin  
Member of Congress



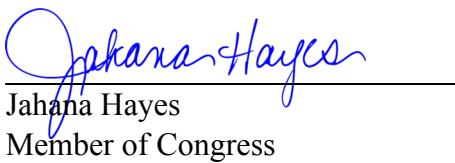
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Earl Blumenauer  
Member of Congress



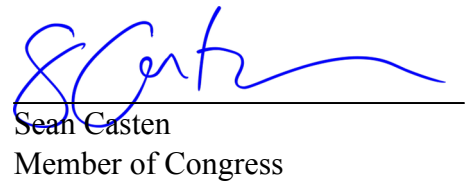
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Jimmy Panetta  
Member of Congress



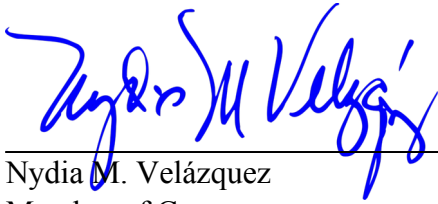
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Jahana Hayes  
Member of Congress



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Sean Casten  
Member of Congress



Nydia M. Velázquez  
Member of Congress



Terri A. Sewell  
Member of Congress



Carol D. Miller  
Member of Congress



Adam Smith  
Member of Congress



Bill Pascrell, Jr.  
Member of Congress



Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr.  
Member of Congress



Seth Magaziner  
Member of Congress



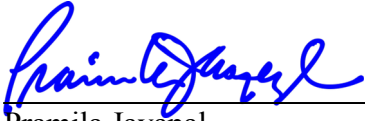
Donald G. Davis  
Member of Congress



Daniel T. Kildee  
Member of Congress



Jake Auchincloss  
Member of Congress



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Pramila Jayapal  
Member of Congress



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Nicole Malliotakis  
Member of Congress



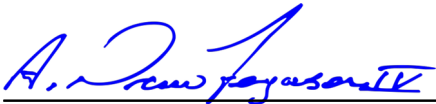
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André Carson  
Member of Congress



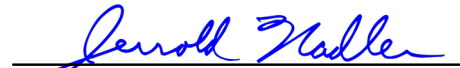
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Lloyd Smucker  
Member of Congress



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A. Drew Ferguson IV  
Member of Congress



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Jerrold Nadler  
Member of Congress



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Elissa Slotkin  
Member of Congress



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Eric Swalwell  
Member of Congress



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Mike Kelly  
Member of Congress



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Lisa Blunt Rochester  
Member of Congress