

Congress of the United States  
Washington, DC 20515

December 20, 2021

The Honorable Shalanda Young  
Acting Director  
Office of Management and Budget  
Eisenhower Executive Office Building  
17th Street and Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20504

Dear Director Young:

As you continue preparation of President Biden's Fiscal Year (FY) 2023 Budget, we respectfully request the administration continue its commitment to increasing equity, addressing the COVID-19 pandemic, and improving the health of the millions of Americans living with kidney diseases by including a \$25 million investment in KidneyX to build upon the success of prior KidneyX prize competitions and speed the development of the world's first artificial kidney.

More than 37 million Americans are living with kidney diseases, which for nearly 800,000 Americans has already progressed to kidney failure, a life-threatening condition for which there is no cure. This under-recognized epidemic disproportionately affects communities of color. For instance, Black Americans comprise 13 percent of the U.S. population but represent 33 percent of Americans living on dialysis, the most common therapy for kidney failure. Dialysis, while an important tool to mitigate kidney failure, has outcomes worse than most cancers: 50 percent of people starting dialysis today will die within 5 years.

The COVID-19 pandemic is especially deadly for kidney patients. Americans with kidney diseases are the most at risk among Medicare beneficiaries for severe outcomes from COVID-19 – including hospitalization and death – and COVID-19 damages the kidneys of 30 percent of all hospitalized COVID-19 patients, even those without a prior history of kidney diseases.

Before the COVID-19 pandemic, Medicare dedicated \$130 billion, or 25 percent of all traditional Medicare fee-for-service spending, to the care of all kidney diseases, including \$50 billion, or 7 percent of Medicare fee-for-service spending, to manage kidney failure alone. Relative to other chronic diseases with comparable federal spending and disease burden, people with kidney diseases have had a lack of innovation in the prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of kidney diseases. However, KidneyX is attracting a new generation of innovators and investors and transforming kidney care giving hope to countless patients.

KidneyX is a public-private partnership between the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and the American Society of Nephrology (ASN) to accelerate innovation in the prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of kidney diseases. KidneyX is incentivizing innovators to fill unmet patient needs through a series of prize competitions, de-risking the commercialization process by fostering coordination among federal agencies and creating a sense of urgency on behalf of patients and families. ASN has already committed \$25 million to support this effort and is committed to matching public funding.

To date, KidneyX has provided more than 60 awards to innovators across 5 prize competitions for solutions ranging from patient-developed solutions to improve quality of life such as dialysis accessible clothing, to cutting-edge innovations such as the artificial kidney and xenotransplantation which hold

promise to provide better quality of life and improve access to care. Further, KidneyX is delivering on its pledge to catalyze private markets to invest in the advancement of kidney care.

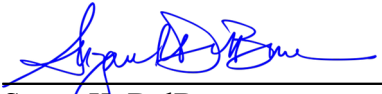
For KidneyX to meet its full potential and continue to foster the development of technologies such as a wearable or implantable artificial kidney and xenotransplantation, the federal government must increase its support for KidneyX by including \$25 million for KidneyX in the FY 2023 President's Budget. Congress has demonstrated its commitment to KidneyX by appropriating \$10 million for the program since FY 2020, with an additional \$5 million proposed in House and Senate FY 2022 appropriations bills, meeting the Biden Administration's FY 22 budget request.

Including a full \$25 million for KidneyX in the FY 2023 President's Budget would allow the program to expand its record of success and continue to drive innovation for people with kidney diseases. Currently, KidneyX is running Phase 2 of the Artificial Kidney Prize, which seeks to promote the integration and advancement of prototype artificial kidneys, driving the technology one step closer from concept to clinical use. With additional support, KidneyX can support additional innovators in the Artificial Kidney Prize competitions and run prizes in other priority areas, such as refining the diagnosis of kidney diseases – currently more than 90% of people with kidney diseases are unaware they have the condition – and developing tools to prevent kidney diseases altogether.

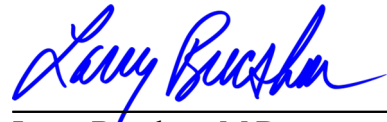
We respectfully request that the Biden administration support innovation for the millions of Americans living with kidney diseases by including \$25 million in FY 2023 for KidneyX in the President's Budget.

Thank you for your consideration of this important request.

Sincerely,



Suzan K. DelBene  
Member of Congress



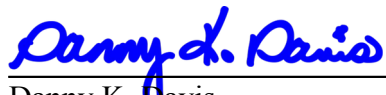
Larry Bucshon, M.D.  
Member of Congress



Gregory F. Murphy, M.D.  
Member of Congress




Bobby L. Rush  
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Danny K. Davis



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Cynthia Axne  
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Marilyn Strickland  
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Ron Kind  
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Adam Smith  
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David B. McKinley  
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Earl Blumenauer  
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Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr.  
Member of Congress



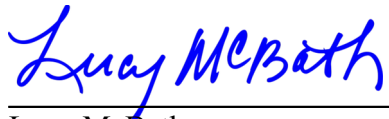
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Sheila Jackson Lee  
Member of Congress



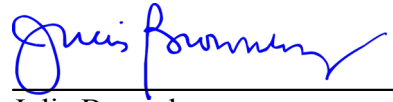
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Earl L. "Buddy" Carter  
Member of Congress



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Lucy McBath  
Member of Congress



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Julia Brownley  
Member of Congress



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Kim Schrier, M.D.  
Member of Congress

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Terri A. Sewell  
Member of Congress