

March 8, 2022

The Honorable Jamie Becker-Finn  
559 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.  
St Paul, MN 55155

**RE: HF 3972 (Richardson) Letter of Support - Nondiscrimination and equity required in access to organ transplants, and penalties prescribed.**

Dear Chair Becker-Finn and members of the House Judiciary Finance and Civil Law Committee:

On behalf of all the people we serve in Minnesota, I am writing to ask for your support for [HF 3972](#), which would prohibit discrimination against a potential organ transplant recipient based on their race or ethnicity.

The American Kidney Fund (AKF), based in Rockville, Maryland is the nation's leading nonprofit organization working on behalf of the 37 million Americans living with kidney disease, and the millions more at risk, with an unmatched scope of programs that support people wherever they are in their fight against kidney disease, from prevention through transplant. With programs that address early detection, disease management, financial assistance, clinical research, innovation and advocacy, no kidney organization impacts more lives than AKF. We are also one of the nation's top-rated nonprofits, investing 97 cents of every donated dollar in programs, AKF has also received the highest [4-Star rating from Charity Navigator](#) for 19 consecutive years, as well as the Platinum Seal of Transparency from Guidestar.

Unfortunately, kidney disease disproportionately affects minorities. Black Americans make up just 13 percent of the U.S. population, but they account for 35 percent of Americans with kidney failure and are almost four times more likely than white Americans to develop kidney failure. Hispanic Americans are 1.6 times more likely than non-Hispanics to develop kidney failure and Native Americans are 1.2 times more likely than white Americans to develop kidney failure.

At the American Kidney Fund, we believe that removing barriers to receiving a kidney transplant will ensure that all patients—regardless of race, ethnicity, gender, age, socioeconomic status, or zip code—will benefit from better care. This, we submit to you today, is simply good public policy, which is why we respectfully request your support for this bill.

Thank you again for your leadership and for your consideration of this important issue. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me directly at any time.

Sincerely,



**Lindsay Gill**

*Associate Director, State Policy and Advocacy*

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