



**IGA NEPHROPATHY
FOUNDATION OF AMERICA, INC.**

Dedicated to finding a cure.

PO Box 1322
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February 10, 2021

The Honorable Matthew Lesser
Co-Chairman
Insurance and Real Estate Committee
Legislative Office Building, Room 2800
Hartford, CT 06106

The Honorable Kerry Szeps Wood
Co-Chairman
Insurance and Real Estate Committee
Legislative Office Building, Room 2800
Hartford, CT 06106

Dear Chairman Lesser & Wood,

The IGA Nephropathy Association of America would like to thank you for your introduction and consideration of HB6387. Our foundation was created to support and advocate on behalf of patients who are diagnosed with IGAN. Many of our patients suffer from end stage renal disease and turn to transplantation to as a method of treatment.

There are over 100,000 patients on the wait list for a kidney and 2019 over 3,400 patients died while waiting for their transplant. According to the National Kidney Foundation 33% of the transplants in 2019 were made possible by living donor donations. Expanding living donation is the best opportunity to increase the number of transplants.

I received a transplant from a living donor, and I have seen first hand the rigorous medical examination that is required to become a living donor. Despite the thorough examination these donors often experience higher premiums or outright denial of insurance coverage. HB 6387 would prohibit discrimination in the pricing or availability of life, disability or long-term care insurance.

A 2014 study by Johns Hopkins University showed that a quarter of living donors faced discrimination when they tried to obtain or change their life insurance just because they were organ donors. It takes a lot of courage to become a living donor and these patients should not be discriminated against. Over the past decade, an approximately 950 Connecticut residents have been living organ donors. Removing barriers is a critical component of expanding organ donation. In addition to providing a better quality of life, a transplant is cost effective for Medicaid and Medicare compared to kidney dialysis. Transplant recipients also are more likely than dialysis patients to remain in or return to the workforce.

The IGA Nephropathy Foundation of America respectfully requests your support for HB 6387.

Sincerely,

Stuart Miller

Stuart Miller
Director of Strategic Planning and Government Relations
IGA Nephropathy Foundation of America