ESRD Patient Advocacy Resources

Kidney patients have many opportunities to advocate for the issues and programs that are important to them. Here are just a few of your options.

**American Association of Kidney Patients (AAKP)**

- **Advocacy Training**—Becoming an advocate in the kidney community doesn’t take a lot of work or mean that you have to be a Washington lobbyist. AAKP believes that being an advocate can come in many different forms.

- **Hill Days**—Join a coalition of major national kidney organizations for the annual *Kidney Advocacy Day* in Washington, DC. In 2015, the kidney coalition conducted an unprecedented 110 plus meetings in one day with congressional leaders and staff in both the Senate and the House of Representatives.

- **How can I learn more?** Visit the AAKP website at [https://aakp.org](https://aakp.org) or contact AAKP at 800.749.AAKP or info@aakp.org.

**American Kidney Fund® (AKF)**

- **Advocacy Network**—More than 5,100 passionate patients, friends, loved ones, and kidney care professionals are part of the Advocacy Network. These individuals are making a huge difference on Capitol Hill and in their own communities. Together, they are petitioning for policies that help kidney patients.

- **Take action on current issues**—Learn about current issues and how to contact your elected officials to make your voice heard.

- **How can I learn more?** Visit the AKF website at [www.kidneyfund.org/advocacy](http://www.kidneyfund.org/advocacy) or call 800.638.8299.

**Dialysis Patient Citizens (DPC)**

- **Patient Ambassador Program**—A Patient Ambassador is a person with kidney disease or family member who represents DPC by being a leader in their community and local dialysis facility. Patient Ambassadors help provide dialysis patients with education, access to information and services, and the confidence to be their own advocates.

- **Advocate’s Toolbox**—This online toolbox can help you to identify ways that you can be an effective advocate on behalf of individuals affected by kidney disease. DPCs are committed to providing advocates with a vast array of useful tools to educate and advocate in the community, with the state legislature, and with Congress.

- **How can I learn more?** Visit the DPC website at [www.dialysispatients.org](http://www.dialysispatients.org) or contact DPC at 866.877.4242 or dpc@dialysispatients.org.
National Kidney Foundation (NKF)

- **Advocacy Action Center**—Sign up to urge legislators to fund research, protect kidney patients, and raise awareness of kidney disease! By signing up with the Advocacy Action Center, the NKF will periodically send emails with links to letters that you can personalize and send to Congress.

- **Kidney Advocacy Committee (KAC)**—KAC patient liaisons represent NKF through local and national media outreach and use their experience to advise government agencies, research organizations, and policy and health organizations on kidney disease.

- **How can I learn more?** Visit the NKF website at [www.kidney.org/advocacy](http://www.kidney.org/advocacy) or contact NKF at 800.622.9010 or info@kidney.org.

Renal Support Network (RSN)

- **Wellness & Education Kidney Advocacy Network (weKAN)**—RSN’s weKAN program focuses on state and federal regulatory and legislative issues that impact the care of people on dialysis. weKAN consists of patient activists banded together with the goal of ensuring that patients with CKD receive quality care.

- **How can I learn more?** Visit the RSN website at [http://rsnhope.org/advocacypublic-policy](http://rsnhope.org/advocacypublic-policy) or call 818.543.0896.

To find more advocacy opportunities in your area, consider conducting an Internet search using some of the following terms: *kidney, renal, nephrology, patient, advocacy, advocate, and/or action*; be sure to include your area of the country in the search. If you need additional support, please contact the ESRD NCC at NCCIInfo@hsag.com.