



February 19, 2024

Senate Committee on Community & Regional Affairs
Chair, Senator Forrest Dunbar

RE: SR 3 (Gray-Jackson), Chronic Kidney Disease Awareness Month – SUPPORT

Chair Dunbar and Members of the Committee,

Fresenius Medical Care is pleased to write in strong support of SR 3 to proclaim March 2024 as Chronic Kidney Disease Awareness Month. Fresenius Medical Care (FMC) is a kidney health care organization that provides life-sustaining dialysis services to approximately 170 Alaskans with kidney failure in 9 outpatient dialysis clinics. We strongly support outreach and education about chronic kidney disease (CKD) to raise awareness of the need for research, screening programs, and access to care.

CKD impacts nearly 15% of adults in the United States, and disproportionately affects communities of color. CKD is a silent disease and is most often diagnosed in late stages when irreversible damage to the kidneys has already occurred. Once a person is diagnosed with the 5th and final stage, End Stage Renal Disease, they will need dialysis or a transplant to survive. Diabetes and High Blood Pressure are two primary contributing factors to CKD.

There are simple tests to diagnose CKD, including blood and urine tests. Raising the awareness of kidney disease is essential to preventing it. For all these reasons, we are proud to support SR 3. If you have any questions regarding our position, you can email me at maria.c.garcia@freseniusmedicalcare.com.

Sincerely,

Maria Garcia Anguiano (she/her)
Senior Director, State Government Affairs

+
Fresenius Medical Care