



# Alaska Kidney Patients Association, Inc.

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February 18, 2024

Senator Elvie Gray-Jackson  
120 4<sup>th</sup> St. Room 30  
Juneau, AK 99801

## Re: Sponsor Statement for Senate Resolution No. 3

The Alaska Kidney Patients Association fully supports Senate Resolution No. 3, which seeks to reduce the impact of chronic kidney disease by increasing awareness and screening.

More than 1 in 7 adults in the US may have chronic kidney disease (CKD) and most people don't even know they have it. Even when symptoms are present, they are often overlooked or attributed to another health issue. Increasing awareness of kidney disease and its related risk factors can help reduce the number of Alaskans with kidney disease.

Kidney disease is often referred to as a 'silent killer' because there are usually no symptoms until the late stages of the disease when dialysis or a kidney transplant may be needed. Chronic Kidney Disease (CKD) is usually a gradual loss of kidney function that damages kidneys and decreases their ability to filter wastes and excess fluid that can lead to kidney failure. People with CKD are more likely to have heart disease and stroke — and to die early.

There is no cure for CKD, but steps can be taken to preserve kidney function for as long as possible. A simple blood and urine test can identify people with CKD and help make sure they get treatment and education that may help prevent or delay kidney failure.

Best personal regards,

Kristie Lemmon  
Executive Director  
Living Kidney Donor