

(LIMITED RUN SHOWING ALL ADDITIONAL SPONSORSHIPS)

**SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 3**

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

THIRTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

**BY SENATORS GRAY-JACKSON, Myers, Kawasaki, Tobin, Hughes, Giessel, Dunbar, Claman, Bishop, Olson, Merrick, Stedman, Stevens****Introduced: 1/24/24****Referred: Community and Regional Affairs****A RESOLUTION**

1 **Recognizing March 2024 as Chronic Kidney Disease Awareness Month in Alaska to**  
 2 **raise awareness of the need for research, screening programs, and access to care for**  
 3 **individuals who suffer from chronic kidney disease.**

4 **BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE:**

5 **WHEREAS** the month of March is recognized as National Kidney Month, making  
 6 March an important time for raising public awareness and understanding about chronic kidney  
 7 and rare kidney diseases; and

8 **WHEREAS** more than one in seven individuals, comprising 15 percent of adults in  
 9 the United States and 37,000,000 people in total, are estimated to have chronic kidney disease  
 10 (CKD), and as many as nine in 10 adults with CKD do not know they have CKD; and

11 **WHEREAS** kidney disease disproportionately affects communities of color; non-  
 12 Hispanic African Americans are almost four times more likely and Hispanic Americans are  
 13 1.3 times more likely to experience kidney failure in comparison to non-Hispanic white  
 14 Americans; and

15 **WHEREAS** CKD, when diagnosed, is often diagnosed in late stages of the disease

1 when irreversible damage to the kidneys has already occurred; and

2       **WHEREAS** 15 percent of people diagnosed with CKD are unaware of the cause of  
3 their disease; and

4       **WHEREAS** recent scientific advancements have shown that some of the health  
5 disparities in CKD have a genetic basis; and

6       **WHEREAS** this genetic risk factor for CKD was discovered in 2010 when scientists  
7 learned that people who inherit two variants of the Apolipoprotein L1 (APOL1) gene are at  
8 significantly increased risk of developing kidney disease; and

9       **WHEREAS** while everyone has the APOL1 gene, only people with African ancestry  
10 inherit certain genetic variants; and

11       **WHEREAS** 13 percent of African Americans carry two APOL1 risk variants, and  
12 estimates suggest that up to one in five people with two APOL1 risk variants will develop  
13 CKD; and

14       **WHEREAS** APOL1-mediated kidney disease causes high levels of protein in the  
15 urine, or proteinuria, and can lead to various symptoms including swelling in the legs and  
16 feet, fatigue, and weight gain; and

17       **WHEREAS** research has also shown that the course of CKD progresses more rapidly  
18 in individuals with two APOL1 risk variants than in patients without them; and

19       **WHEREAS** CKD may eventually lead to kidney failure, requiring dialysis or a  
20 kidney transplant; and

21       **WHEREAS** there are simple tests to diagnose CKD, including blood and urine tests,  
22 and the presence of APOL1 risk variants can now be identified with a genetic test; and

23       **WHEREAS** it is imperative to improve diagnosis and treatment of CKD through  
24 community-based programs that address racial disparities in the awareness, diagnosis, and  
25 treatment of CKD;

26       **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Senate, to raise awareness of the need for research,  
27 screening programs, and access to care for individuals who suffer from CKD, recognizes  
28 March 2024 as Chronic Kidney Disease Awareness Month in the state; and be it

29       **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Senate directs the senate secretary to make  
30 appropriate copies of this resolution available to the public and the press.