

**STATE OF ALASKA
SENATE**

2024

Source
SR 3

**Senate
Resolve No.**
2



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

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE:

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

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

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

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

when irreversible damage to the kidneys has already occurred; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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