



ANNA's 2024 Advocacy Forum "Ask Sheet"

The American Nephrology Nurses Association (ANNA) is a nonprofit organization with a membership of approximately 7,000 registered nurses and other healthcare professionals at all levels of practice. ANNA members work in settings such as chronic kidney disease management, peritoneal dialysis, hemodialysis, continuous renal replacement therapy, transplantation, government and regulatory agencies, and industry.

At ANNA's 2024 Advocacy Forum, participants will learn to advocate on behalf of the nursing profession and the patients they care for daily. The participants will be visiting their Members of Congress to discuss several health policy issues and request support for the following legislation:

- **The Living Donor Protection Act of 2023 (H.R. 2923/S. 1384)** promotes organ donation and protects living donors. The legislation prohibits life, disability, and long-term care insurance companies from denying or limiting coverage and from charging higher premiums for living organ donors. It amends the Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993 to include living organ donation as a serious health condition. In addition, the bill directs the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to update its materials on live organ donations to reflect these new protections and encourage more individuals to consider donating an organ. **ANNA encourages Members of Congress to cosponsor the Living Donor Protection Act of 2023 (H.R. 2923 and S. 1384).**
- **The Chronic Kidney Disease Improvement in Research and Treatment Act (H.R. 5027/S.4469)** improves the research and development of new treatments for chronic kidney disease and kidney failure. The legislation adds chronic kidney disease and kidney failure to Medicare's annual wellness benefit, allowing Medicare beneficiaries to identify and slow the progression of these conditions. The bill requires the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation (CMMI) to provide a long-term payment pathway for new kidney disease drugs, medical devices, and biologics. In addition, the bill aims to combat the nephrology health workforce crisis by including them in the National Health Service Corps loan forgiveness program. **ANNA encourages Members of Congress to cosponsor the Chronic Kidney Disease Improvement in Research and Treatment Act (H.R. 5027 and S. 4469).**
- **Increased funding for FY 2025 Title VIII Nursing Workforce Development programs** helps stabilize and strengthen the nursing workforce, which faces unprecedented staffing shortages. These programs are administered by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) and address all aspects of the nursing workforce including education, recruitment of nurses, and retention. Key programs include the Nurse Corps Scholarship and Loan Repayment Program which awards scholarships to individuals enrolled in a nursing scholarship in exchange for two years of service at the Critical Shortage Facility after graduation. Additionally, the Nursing Workforce Diversity Program uses scholarships and stipends to incentivize individuals from disadvantaged backgrounds to become nurses. **ANNA supports a funding request of at least \$530 million for the Nursing Workforce Development programs.**