



April 8, 2026

Re: Support for HB 26-1019 – Concerning Mandatory Health-Care Coverage for Preventive Kidney Function Screening Services.

Dear members of the committee,

On behalf of the Diabetes Patient Advocacy Coalition (DPAC), I write in support of HB 26-1019. DPAC is an alliance of people with diabetes, caregivers, patient advocates, health professionals, and others working together to support public policy initiatives to improve the lives of Americans living with and at risk for diabetes and its complications. As an organization run by and for people with diabetes, DPAC seeks to ensure quality of and access to care, medications and devices for our community.

The diabetes community cares deeply about maintaining and expanding coverage of early, preventive screenings of kidney function because a staggering 1 in 3 adults with diabetes live with chronic kidney disease (CKD)¹. A study conducted by the National Kidney Foundation and the National Committee for Quality Assurance showed that fewer than 40% of adults with diabetes received recommended testing (uACR) for CKD in 2017². While blood tests for kidney function can also be helpful, albuminuria testing (uACR), which looks for proteins in urine, can show warning signs of declining kidney function about 10 years before levels from the blood test are detectable³. The comprehensive tests covered by HB 26-1019 include serum creatinine, estimated glomerular filtration rate, and urine albumin-creatinine testing, providing appropriately thorough testing that will detect early-stage kidney disease. Patients and providers often do not know which tests will or will not be covered by insurance; streamlining coverage of preventive testing across the state will allow more patients to screen without fear of high out-of-pocket costs.

As stated in HB 26-1019, without early detection, chronic kidney disease is much more strenuous and costly for both the patient and the healthcare systems as it progresses. Out-of-pocket expenses for patients rise from about \$280 annually for stage one chronic kidney disease to \$10,183 for end-stage chronic kidney disease.

We strongly support the state expanding coverage of preventive kidney function screening services. Early detection can reduce the physical, emotional, and financial burden of kidney disease on patients, insurance systems, and healthcare systems in Colorado. Additionally, this will improve overall health outcomes for Coloradans, particularly those with diabetes.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment. Please do not hesitate to contact us with any questions or if we may be a resource in further policy discussions.

Sincerely,



Erin M. Callahan
Chief Operating Officer
Diabetes Patient Advocacy Coalition

¹ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2024, May 15). *Chronic Kidney Disease*. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. <https://www.cdc.gov/diabetes/diabetes-complications/diabetes-and-chronic-kidney-disease.html>

² National Kidney Foundation. *Only 40% of diabetes patients get recommended kidney health testing*. National Kidney Foundation. (2024, August 12). <https://www.kidney.org/press-room/only-40-diabetes-patients-get-recommended-kidney-health-testing>

³ Wisconsin Collaborative for Healthcare Quality. (n.d.). *Screening and diagnosis*. WCHQ. <https://www.wchq.org/ckd-screening-diagnosis/toolkit>

April 7, 2026

Colorado Senate Health & Human Services Committee
Colorado General Assembly
200 E. Colfax Avenue Denver, CO 80203

Re: Support for HB26-1019 – Kidney Disease Screening Coverage

Dear Chair and Members of the Senate Health & Human Services Committee:

On behalf of the American Kidney Fund (AKF), I write to respectfully express our strong support for House Bill 26-1019, which would expand access to preventive kidney disease screening services for Colorado residents.

The American Kidney Fund is the nation's leading nonprofit working on behalf of the one in seven Americans living with kidney disease. Through programs of patient assistance, education, and advocacy, AKF works to improve health outcomes and ensure that individuals living with kidney disease receive the care they need to live healthier lives. We are proud to advocate for policies that promote early detection, improve access to care, and reduce the long-term burden of kidney disease.

Kidney disease is a serious and growing public health concern in Colorado. As outlined in HB26-1019, over 9,000 Colorado residents are currently living with end-stage renal disease, and thousands rely on dialysis to stay alive. At the same time, many individuals living with chronic kidney disease remain unaware they have the condition, as kidney disease often develops silently and may not present noticeable symptoms until it has progressed to more advanced stages.

For many patients, kidney disease is not detected until it has progressed to advanced stages, when treatment options become more complex, more expensive, and significantly more burdensome for both patients and the health care system. Early detection is critical. Simple and widely available screening tests such as estimated glomerular filtration rate (eGFR) blood tests and urine albumin-creatinine ratio (uACR) tests can identify kidney disease at earlier stages when interventions can slow progression, prevent complications, and improve quality of life.

HB26-1019 addresses a key barrier to early detection by ensuring that preventive kidney function screening services are covered without cost sharing. By removing financial barriers to screening, this legislation will make it easier for individuals particularly those at higher risk due to conditions such as diabetes and hypertension to receive routine testing and be diagnosed earlier.

Earlier diagnosis allows patients and providers to implement interventions that can slow or prevent progression to kidney failure, reducing the need for dialysis or kidney transplantation. This not only improves health outcomes for patients but also helps reduce the significant financial burden associated with advanced kidney disease. Preventive care and early intervention represent a far more cost-effective approach than treating kidney failure after it develops.

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HB26-1019 also reflects the thoughtful recommendations of the Kidney Disease Prevention and Education Task Force, which identified increased access to screening as a critical strategy for improving kidney health outcomes in Colorado. By implementing these recommendations, the state can take an important step toward reducing health disparities, improving early detection, and strengthening long-term health outcomes for thousands of Coloradans.

For these reasons, the American Kidney Fund respectfully urges the committee to support HB26-1019 and advance this important legislation. Expanding access to preventive kidney screening will help patients receive earlier diagnoses, allow providers to intervene sooner, and ultimately improve the health and well-being of Colorado residents at risk for kidney disease.

Thank you for your time and consideration. Please feel free to contact me if I can provide any additional information.

Sincerely,

Josie Gamez Associate Director, State Policy & Advocacy American Kidney Fund