



April 9, 2021

Senator Patrick Browne
Chair
Senate Appropriations Committee
281 Main Capitol Building
Senate Box 203016
Harrisburg, PA 17120-3016

Honorable Stan Saylor
Chair
House Appropriations Committee
245 Main Capitol Building
P.O. Box 202094
Harrisburg, PA 17120-2094

Dear Chairs:

On behalf of the Polycystic Kidney Disease Foundation, I write to share our strong support for HB 203, the Living Donor Protection Act.

Polycystic Kidney Disease (PKD) is a chronic, genetic disease affecting over 600,000 Americans, including nearly 24,000 Pennsylvanians. Asymptomatic until its advanced stages, PKD causes uncontrolled cysts to grow in the kidneys, often resulting in kidney failure. To date, there is no cure; dialysis and transplantation are the only treatment options.

HB 203, the Living Donor Protection Act, will bring much-needed protections to Pennsylvanians who choose to give the gift of organ donation. This bill will prevent insurance companies from unfairly raising premiums or canceling coverage for living donors. It also provides tax credits to help offset the costs associated with donation and recovery. Finally, HB 203 will provide paid leave for state employees who serve as living organ donors.

Studies show that on average less than a third of kidney donations come from living donors. Because of the hereditary nature of PKD, family member living donation is often impossible. HB 203 will undoubtedly help promote greater living organ donation by removing unnecessary barriers to donation and protecting donors as they recover.

On behalf of the PKD Foundation and our advocates across the country, we strongly urge you to report HB 203 favorably out of Committee and support its further passage and enactment.

Thank you for your continued commitment to patients and donors.

Best regards,

Andy Betts
President and Chief Executive Officer
PKD Foundation