HR3282*

JULIA SPINA-KILAR

6760 Commerce Road
West Bloomfield, MI 48324
JuliaS-K@comcast.net

The Honorable Joe Knollenberg
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington DC 20515

May 7, 2008

Dear Congressman Knollenberg,

On August 1, 2007, Congressman David Camp introduced HR 3282, the "Comprehensive Immunosuppressive Drug Coverage for Transplant Patients Act." I am writing to ask you to become a co-sponsor of HR 3282.

Immunosuppressive drugs are necessary to preserve an organ transplant (prevent rejection.) Currently Medicare puts a 3 year limit on immunosuppressive drug coverage. HR 3282 would extend this drug coverage to kidney transplant patients who cannot afford their medications after the 3 year limit cuts them off.

I received a kidney transplant 26 years ago after 8 very long and difficult years on dialysis. Unfortunately, I have not had prescription coverage with my health care policy. Where I make it a priority to afford my immunosuppressive drugs, many people cannot, especially with the rising costs of everything in our struggling economy. Many transplant recipients are students who are working two jobs just to pay for their education, room and board. This legislation is very important to me and to so many people who have overcome catastrophic health issues and are now, or soon will be, productive contributors to our society.

Dialysis costs approximately $67,700 per patient per year, where the cost of immunosuppressive drugs cost $10,000-$20,000 per patient per year. There is no question which option saves taxpayers' hard earned dollars and produces productivity with better health and personal freedoms for so many afflicted with organ failure. Unfortunately, the choice to have an organ transplant could be complicated by people's inability to afford the necessary immunosuppressive drugs. Their choice to remain on dialysis is the option that Medicare pays for ***indefinitely.*** This decision is costly to everyone on both economic and personal/health levels.

Please co-sponsor HR 3282 and help make it the law as soon as possible.
So many people would be helped by it and our State would be benefit financially.

Sincerely,

Julia Spina-Kilar