

**Women In Government**  
*Kidney Health Policy Resource Center*  
State Policy Backgrounder

With disproportionate health burdens associated with kidney disease and kidney cancer in the United States, Women In Government has developed the **Kidney Health Policy Resource Center** in order to identify specific policy issues that will help reduce the burdens associated with kidney-related health issues. The Resource Center serves as a clearinghouse of information for state policymakers in order to promote the adoption of sound public health policies regarding kidney disease, organ donation and kidney cancer.

To ensure that state policymakers are informed about current kidney health policy, Women In Government conducts outreach to state policymakers to tailor the Resource Center according to state specific needs. The Resource Center provides state policymakers with educational resources on chronic kidney disease, organ donation, and kidney cancer, all of which can assist policymakers in the development and successful adoption of sound public policies regarding kidney-related health issues in their states. Proposed state policies addressing the issue of kidney disease include: creating a taskforce to determine the best approach for detection and management of kidney disease, designating a day/week/month of the year for “Kidney Disease Awareness,” development of Kidney Disease Management programs for Medicare and Medicaid beneficiaries, providing appropriations for university-based kidney disease management programs to increase screening and treatment of individuals with kidney disease and mandating health coverage of screening for kidney disease.

Policies that address the issue of organ donation include: amending tax laws to provide tax deductions for living kidney donors, providing employment benefits for state employees with kidney disease, and implementing an “Advance Directive” that includes a certificate of authorization for organ donation. To reduce the burden of kidney cancer, it is essential to focus on increasing access to preventive and primary healthcare that will result in early diagnosis of kidney cancer, ensuring that newly-approved kidney cancer therapies are covered by Medicare Part D, and investing in scientific research related to kidney cancer to increase our knowledge and make an solid effort in preventing it.

States play a significant role in creating awareness of these kidney-related health issues and educating their citizens about the benefits of prevention and early detection of kidney disease and kidney cancer and importance of organ donation to reduce the number of individuals on kidney-transplant waiting lists. Increasing awareness and educating the American public and state policymakers about kidney-health issues can significantly reduce healthcare costs associated with treating kidney disease and kidney cancer and improve quality of life. Our **Kidney Health Policy Resource Center** provides information to help connect state legislators to educational and policy resources needed to advance kidney-related health issues in their respective states.